

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3905

To improve the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense,
and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2010

Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To improve the Transition Assistance Program of the
Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. ENHANCEMENT OF TRANSITION ASSISTANCE**

4 **PROGRAM.**

5 (a) COMPULSORY PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAM.—Ef-
6 fective not later than one year after the date of the enact-
7 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall ensure
8 the following:

9 (1) That each member of the Armed Forces
10 who is discharged, released, or otherwise separated

1 from the Armed Forces participates in the Transi-
2 tion Assistance Program of the Department of De-
3 fense.

4 (2) That the programs and services of the
5 Transition Assistance Program are accessible by all
6 members of the National Guard and the Reserves.

7 (b) EXPANSION OF SERVICES UNDER PROGRAM.—
8 Effective not later than one year after the date of the en-
9 actment of this Act, the Secretary shall ensure that the
10 services provided by the Transition Assistance Program
11 include the following:

12 (1) Employment and training information tar-
13 geted specifically at the various military grades and
14 at the various military occupational specialties.

15 (2) Expanded emphasis on education benefits
16 available to former members of the Armed Forces,
17 including educational assistance under chapter 33 of
18 title 38, United States Code (commonly referred to
19 as “Post-9/11 educational assistance”).

20 (3) Enhanced information on the other benefits
21 available to former members of the Armed Forces
22 through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

23 (4) Enhanced training on financial manage-
24 ment.

1 (5) Dedicated computer training with
2 TurboTap.org, the VetSuccess Internet website, the
3 USA Jobs Internet website, and any other employ-
4 ment-related Internet websites the Secretary con-
5 sider appropriate, including, in particular, employ-
6 ment-related Internet websites that focus on jobs for
7 veterans.

8 (6) Dedicated training targeted specifically at
9 members of the National Guard and the Reserves,
10 including training on employment protections and
11 other employment matters under chapter 43 of title
12 38, United States Code (commonly referred to as
13 the “Uniformed Services Employment and Reem-
14 ployment Rights Act”).

15 (c) REPORTS.—

16 (1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 6
17 months after the date of the enactment of this Act,
18 and every six months thereafter for the following 18
19 months, the Secretary shall submit to the appro-
20 priate committees of Congress a report on the status
21 of the implementation of the requirements in sub-
22 sections (a) and (b).

23 (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS
24 DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appro-
25 priate committees of Congress” means—

1 (A) the Committee on Armed Services and
2 the Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
3 and Pensions of the Senate; and

4 (B) the Committee on Armed Services and
5 the Committee on Education and Labor of the
6 House of Representatives.

7 **SEC. 2. REPORT ON TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

8 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 270 days
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
10 of Defense shall, in consultation with the Secretary of
11 Labor, submit to the appropriate committees of Congress
12 a report on the Transition Assistance Program of the De-
13 partment of Defense.

14 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection
15 (a) shall include the following:

16 (1) An analysis of the rates of employment of
17 individuals post-separation from the Armed Forces
18 when compared with the rates of employment of the
19 general population annually since September 11,
20 2001.

21 (2) A chronological summary of the evolution
22 and development of the Transition Assistance Pro-
23 gram since September 11, 2001.

24 (3) A description of efforts to transform the
25 Transition Assistance Program from an end-of-serv-

1 ice transition model to a life-cycle model, in which
2 transition is considered throughout the career of a
3 member of the Armed Forces.

4 (4) An analysis of current and future challenges
5 that former members of the Armed Forces face upon
6 entering the civilian workforce, including a survey of
7 the following to identify strengths and shortcomings
8 of the Transition Assistance Program in meeting
9 such challenges:

10 (A) A representational population of
11 transitioning or recently separated members of
12 the Armed Forces.

13 (B) Employers with a history of employing
14 retired or separating members of the Armed
15 Forces.

16 (C) Veterans service organizations and ad-
17 vocacy groups.

18 (5) An assessment of whether the Transition
19 Assistance Program would be more effective if it
20 were provided to members of the Armed Forces ear-
21 lier before separation.

22 (6) A description of various options for a so-
23 called “check-in” mechanism under the Transition
24 Assistance Program in which former members con-
25 tact the program three months after separation to

1 address questions, including through the use of
2 Internet-based programs.

3 (7) An assessment of the quality of trainers
4 under the Transition Assistance Program.

5 (8) An assessment of the success of marketing
6 the Transition Assistance Program to members of
7 the Armed Forces.

8 (9) Such recommendations as the Secretary of
9 Defense considers appropriate, including rec-
10 ommendations for legislative action, to improve the
11 organization, policies, consistency of quality, and ef-
12 ficacy of the Transition Assistance Program.

13 (c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DE-
14 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate commit-
15 tees of Congress” means—

16 (1) the Committee on Armed Services and the
17 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
18 sions of the Senate; and

19 (2) the Committee on Armed Services and the
20 Committee on Education and Labor of the House of
21 Representatives.

○