

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1796

To ensure that the education and training provided members of the Armed Forces and veterans better assists members and veterans in obtaining civilian certifications and licenses, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2013

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. GALLEGRO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. ENYART, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. JONES, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. ESTY, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HARPER, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. BARBER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To ensure that the education and training provided members of the Armed Forces and veterans better assists members and veterans in obtaining civilian certifications and licenses, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Troop Talent Act of
3 2013”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) According to the Bureau of Labor Statis-
7 tics, the unemployment rate for recent veterans of
8 military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan was 9.4
9 percent in February 2013, compared with 7.6 per-
10 cent in February 2012.

11 (2) With the unemployment rate among such
12 veterans higher than the national average and the
13 number of veterans receiving unemployment benefits
14 doubling since 2002, there is a significant need to
15 assist members of the Armed Forces as they transi-
16 tion to the civilian workforce.

17 (3) In order to remain competitive in the civil-
18 ian employment market, members of the Armed
19 Forces and veterans require information about how
20 their military skill sets translate to the requirements
21 of the civilian workforce. Members of the Armed
22 Forces currently receive insufficient or inadequate
23 information during their training for military occu-
24 pational specialties on translating skills obtained
25 during such training to civilian occupations and cre-
26 dentials.

1 (4) In addition, there is a need for enhanced ac-
2 cess by accredited credentialing agencies to military
3 training curricula in order to facilitate and enhance
4 the correlation between military training and appli-
5 cable civilian credentialing courses and exams.

6 (5) The information technology sector is one of
7 the fastest growing industries, with tremendous job
8 growth and demand for talented, qualified individ-
9 uals. The information technology sector has an un-
10 employment rate of 3.5 percent according to a Bu-
11 reau of Labor Statistics report from February 2013.

12 (6) The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a
13 need for 110,000 computer support specialists over
14 the next decade. Currently, the size of the informa-
15 tion technology workforce in the Armed Forces is
16 about 160,000 members.

17 **SEC. 3. ENHANCEMENT OF MECHANISMS TO CORRELATE**
18 **SKILLS AND TRAINING FOR MILITARY OCCU-**
19 **PATIONAL SPECIALTIES WITH SKILLS AND**
20 **TRAINING REQUIRED FOR CIVILIAN CERTIFI-**
21 **CATIONS AND LICENSES.**

22 (a) IMPROVEMENT OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO
23 MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ABOUT CORRELA-
24 TION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries of the mili-
2 tary departments, in coordination with the Under
3 Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness,
4 shall, to the maximum extent practicable, make in-
5 formation on civilian credentialing opportunities
6 available to members of the Armed Forces beginning
7 with, and at every stage of, training of members for
8 military occupational specialties, in order to permit
9 members—

10 (A) to evaluate the extent to which such
11 training correlates with the skills and training
12 required in connection with various civilian cer-
13 tifications and licenses; and

14 (B) to assess the suitability of such train-
15 ing for obtaining or pursuing such civilian cer-
16 tifications and licenses.

17 (2) COORDINATION WITH TRANSITION GOALS
18 PLANS SUCCESS PROGRAM.—Information shall be
19 made available under paragraph (1) in a manner
20 consistent with the Transition Goals Plans Success
21 (GPS) program.

22 (3) TYPES OF INFORMATION.—The information
23 made available under paragraph (1) shall include,
24 but not be limited to, the following:

1 (A) Information on the civilian occupa-
2 tional equivalents of military occupational spe-
3 cialties (MOS).

4 (B) Information on civilian license or cer-
5 tification requirements, including examination
6 requirements.

7 (C) Information on the availability and op-
8 portunities for use of educational benefits avail-
9 able to members of the Armed Forces, as ap-
10 propriate, corresponding training, or continuing
11 education that leads to a certification exam in
12 order to provide a pathway to credentialing op-
13 portunities.

14 (4) USE AND ADAPTATION OF CERTAIN PRO-
15 GRAMS.—In making information available under
16 paragraph (1), the Secretaries of the military de-
17 partments may use and adapt appropriate portions
18 of the Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL)
19 programs of the Army and the Navy and the
20 Credentialing and Educational Research Tool
21 (CERT) of the Air Force.

22 (b) IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESS OF ACCREDITED CI-
23 VILIAN CREDENTIALING AGENCIES TO MILITARY TRAIN-
24 ING CONTENT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries of the mili-
2 tary departments, in coordination with the Under
3 Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness,
4 shall, to the maximum extent practicable consistent
5 with national security requirements, make available
6 to accredited civilian credentialing agencies that
7 issue certifications or licenses, upon request of such
8 agencies, information such as military course train-
9 ing curricula, syllabi, and materials, levels of mili-
10 tary advancement attained, and professional skills
11 developed.

12 (2) CENTRAL REPOSITORY.—The actions taken
13 pursuant to paragraph (1) may include the estab-
14 lishment of a central repository of information on
15 training and training materials provided members in
16 connection with military occupational specialties that
17 is readily accessible by accredited civilian
18 credentialing agencies described in that paragraph in
19 order to meet requests described in that paragraph.

20 **SEC. 4. USE OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR COURSES**
21 **IN PURSUIT OF CIVILIAN CERTIFICATIONS**
22 **OR LICENSES.**

23 (a) COURSES UNDER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
24 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE AUTHORITIES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 101 of title 10,
2 United States Code, is amended by inserting after
3 section 2015 the following new section:

4 **“§ 2015a. Civilian certifications and licenses: use of**
5 **educational assistance for courses in pur-**
6 **suit of civilian certifications or licenses**

7 “(a) LIMITATION ON USE OF ASSISTANCE.—In the
8 case of a member of the armed forces who is enrolled in
9 an educational institution in a State for purposes of ob-
10 taining employment in an occupation or profession requir-
11 ing the approval or licensure of a board or agency of that
12 State, educational assistance specified in subsection (b)
13 may be used by the member for a course offered by the
14 educational institution that is a required element of the
15 curriculum to be satisfied to obtain employment in that
16 occupation or profession only if—

17 “(1) the successful completion of the cur-
18 riculum fully qualifies a student to—

19 “(A) take any examination required for
20 entry into the occupation or profession, includ-
21 ing satisfying any State or professionally man-
22 dated programmatic and specialized accredita-
23 tion requirements; and

24 “(B) be certified or licensed or meet any
25 other academically related pre-conditions that

1 are required for entry into the occupation or
2 profession; and

3 “(2) in the case of State licensing or profes-
4 sionally mandated requirements for entry into the
5 occupation or profession that require specialized ac-
6 creditation, the curriculum meets the requirement
7 for specialized accreditation through its accreditation
8 or pre-accreditation by an accrediting agency or as-
9 sociation recognized by the Secretary of Education
10 or designated by that State as a reliable authority
11 as to the quality or training offered by the institu-
12 tion in that program.

13 “(b) COVERED EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—The
14 educational assistance specified in this subsection is edu-
15 cational assistance as follows:

16 “(1) Educational assistance for members of the
17 armed forces under section 2007 and 2015 of this
18 title.

19 “(2) Educational assistance for persons enlist-
20 ing for active duty under chapter 106A of this title.

21 “(3) Educational assistance for members of the
22 armed forces held as captives under section 2183 of
23 this title.

24 “(4) Educational assistance for members of the
25 Selected Reserve under chapter 1606 of this title.

1 “(5) Educational assistance for reserve compo-
 2 nent members supporting contingency operations
 3 and other operations under chapter 1607 of this
 4 title.

5 “(6) Such other educational assistance provided
 6 members of the armed forces under the laws admin-
 7 istered by the Secretary of Defense or the Secre-
 8 taries of the military departments as the Secretary
 9 of Defense shall designate for purposes of this sec-
 10 tion.”.

11 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 12 tions at the beginning of chapter 101 of such title
 13 is amended by inserting after the item relating to
 14 section 2015 the following new item:

“2015a. Civilian certifications and licenses: use of educational assistance for
 courses in pursuit of civilian certifications or licenses.”.

15 (b) COURSES UNDER EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE
 16 AUTHORITIES ADMINISTERED BY SECRETARY OF VET-
 17 ERANS AFFAIRS.—Section 3679 of title 38, United States
 18 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new
 19 subsection:

20 “(c) A course offered by an educational institution
 21 in a State that is a required element of the curriculum
 22 to be satisfied to obtain employment in an occupation or
 23 profession requiring the approval or licensure of a board
 24 or agency of that State may be treated as approved for

1 purposes of this chapter by an individual seeking to obtain
2 employment in that occupation or profession only if—

3 “(1) the successful completion of the cur-
4 rriculum fully qualifies a student to—

5 “(A) take any examination required for
6 entry into the occupation or profession, includ-
7 ing satisfying any State or professionally man-
8 dated programmatic and specialized accredita-
9 tion requirements; and

10 “(B) be certified or licensed or meet any
11 other academically related pre-conditions that
12 are required for entry into the occupation or
13 profession; and

14 “(2) in the case of State licensing or profes-
15 sionally mandated requirements for entry into the
16 occupation or profession that require specialized ac-
17 creditation, the curriculum meets the requirement
18 for specialized accreditation through its accreditation
19 or pre-accreditation by an accrediting agency or as-
20 sociation recognized by the Secretary of Education
21 or designated by that State as a reliable authority
22 as to the quality or training offered by the institu-
23 tion in that program.”.

24 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
25 this section shall take effect on August 1, 2014, and shall

1 apply with respect to courses pursued on or after that
2 date.

3 **SEC. 5. COVERAGE OF MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIAL-**
4 **TIES RELATING TO MILITARY INFORMATION**
5 **TECHNOLOGY UNDER PILOT PROGRAM ON**
6 **RECEIPT OF CIVILIAN CREDENTIALS FOR**
7 **SKILLS REQUIRED FOR MILITARY OCCUPA-**
8 **TIONAL SPECIALTIES.**

9 The military occupational specialties designated for
10 purposes of the pilot program on receipt of civilian creden-
11 tials for skills required for military occupational specialties
12 under section 558 of the National Defense Authorization
13 Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2015 note) shall in-
14 clude military occupational specialties relating to the mili-
15 tary information technology workforce.

16 **SEC. 6. REVIVAL OF PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION AND**
17 **LICENSURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE**
18 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
20 shall reestablish the Professional Certification and Licen-
21 sure Advisory Committee of the Department of Veterans
22 Affairs provided for under section 3689(e) of title 38,
23 United States Code. The Committee shall be reestablished
24 in accordance with the provisions of such section 3689(e),
25 as amended by subsection (b), and shall carry out its du-

1 ties in conformance with, and subject to the requirements
2 of such section, as so amended.

3 (b) MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITIES AND REQUIRE-
4 MENTS.—Section 3689(e) of title 38, United States Code,
5 is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (2)—

7 (A) by inserting “(A)” after “(2)”; and

8 (B) by adding at the end the following new
9 subparagraph:

10 “(B) In addition to the duties under subparagraph
11 (A), the Committee shall—

12 “(i) develop, in coordination with other appro-
13 priate agencies, guidance to be used by the Depart-
14 ment or other entities to perform periodic audits of
15 licensure and certification programs to ensure the
16 highest quality education is available to veterans and
17 members of the Armed Forces; and

18 “(ii) develop, in coordination with the Depart-
19 ment of Defense, appropriate certification agencies,
20 and other appropriate non-profit organizations, a
21 plan to improve outreach to veterans and members
22 of the Armed Forces on the importance of licensing
23 and certification, as well as educational benefits
24 available to them.”;

1 (2) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking “and the
2 Secretary of Defense” and inserting “the Secretary
3 of Defense, and the Secretary of Education”;

4 (3) in paragraph (4), by striking subparagraph
5 (B) and inserting the following new subparagraph:

6 “(B) The Committee shall meet with such frequency
7 as the Committee determines appropriate.”; and

8 (4) in paragraph (5), by striking “December
9 31, 2006” and inserting “December 31, 2019”.

10 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
11 of the reestablishment of the Professional Certification
12 and Licensure Advisory Committee of the Department of
13 Veterans Affairs pursuant to this section, the Committee
14 shall submit to Congress a report setting forth an assess-
15 ment of the feasibility and advisability of permitting mem-
16 bers of the Armed Forces to use educational assistance
17 to which they are entitled under chapters 30 and 33 of
18 title 38, United States Code, to obtain or pursue civilian
19 employment certifications or licenses without the use of
20 such assistance for that purpose being charged against the
21 entitlement of such members to such educational assist-
22 ance.

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