

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1126

To modify and extend the National Guard State Partnership Program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 29, 2015

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To modify and extend the National Guard State Partnership Program.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “State Partnership Pro-
5 gram Enhancement Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. MODIFICATION AND EXTENSION OF NATIONAL**
7 **GUARD STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.**

8 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—Subsection (a)(1) of section 1205
9 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year

1 2014 (Public Law 113–66; 127 Stat. 897; 32 U.S.C. 107
 2 note) is amended—

3 (1) by striking “whose primary functions in-
 4 clude disaster response or emergency response,”;
 5 and

6 (2) by adding at the end before the period the
 7 following: “to support the national interests and se-
 8 curity cooperation goals and objectives of the United
 9 States as defined by the current and evolving na-
 10 tional global strategic policies of the United States”.

11 (b) LIMITATION.—Subsection (b) of such section is
 12 amended by striking “whose primary functions include
 13 disaster response or emergency response”.

14 (c) REGULATIONS.—Subsection (c) of such section is
 15 amended to read as follows:

16 “(c) REGULATIONS.—

17 “(1) ROLE OF CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD
 18 BUREAU.—The Chief of the National Guard Bureau
 19 shall—

20 “(A) establish, maintain, and update as
 21 appropriate a list of core competencies of the
 22 National Guard to support each program estab-
 23 lished under subsection (a), collectively and for
 24 each State and territory, and shall submit to
 25 the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of

1 State the list of core competencies of the Na-
2 tional Guard and additional information needed
3 to make use of such core competencies; and

4 “(B) designate a director for each State
5 and territory who shall be responsible for the
6 conduct of activities under a program estab-
7 lished under subsection (a) for such State or
8 territory and reporting on activities under the
9 program.

10 “(2) ROLE OF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—The
11 Secretary of Defense shall ensure that regulations to
12 carry out this section include planning, coordinating,
13 and execution requirements with the commanders of
14 applicable combatant commands and that activities
15 under a program established under subsection (a)
16 meet the relevant theater security cooperation objec-
17 tives.

18 “(3) ROLE OF SECRETARY OF STATE.—The
19 Secretary of State shall ensure that the regulations
20 to carry out this section include planning, coordi-
21 nating, and execution requirements with the relevant
22 chiefs of mission and that activities under a program
23 established under subsection (a) meet the diplomatic
24 objectives of the Department of State.”.

1 (d) NATIONAL GUARD STATE PARTNERSHIP PRO-
 2 GRAM FUND.—Subsection (d) of such section is amended
 3 to read as follows:

4 “(d) NATIONAL GUARD STATE PARTNERSHIP PRO-
 5 GRAM FUND.—

6 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby estab-
 7 lished on the books of the Treasury the National
 8 Guard State Partnership Program Fund (in this
 9 subsection referred to as the ‘Fund’).

10 “(2) CREDITS TO FUND.—There shall be cred-
 11 ited to the Fund the following:

12 “(A) Amounts authorized for and appro-
 13 priated to the Fund.

14 “(B) Amounts that the Secretary of De-
 15 fense transfers, in such amounts as provided in
 16 appropriations Acts, to the Fund from amounts
 17 authorized and appropriated to the Department
 18 of Defense, including amounts authorized to be
 19 appropriated for the Army National Guard and
 20 the Air National Guard.

21 “(3) USE OF AMOUNTS IN FUND.—In such
 22 amounts as provided in appropriations Acts, the Sec-
 23 retary of Defense may use amounts in the Fund—

24 “(A) for payment of costs incurred by the
 25 National Guard of a State or territory to con-

duct activities under a program established under subsection (a), including costs for personnel, training, operations, and equipment; and

“(B) for payment of incremental expenses of a foreign country to conduct activities under a program established under subsection (a).

“(4) LIMITATIONS.—

“(A) ACTIVE DUTY REQUIREMENT.—
Amounts shall not be available under paragraph (3) for the participation of a member of the National Guard of a State or territory in activities in a foreign country unless the member is on active duty in the Armed Forces at the time of such participation.

“(B) INCREMENTAL EXPENSES.—The total amount of payments for incremental expenses of foreign countries as authorized under paragraph (3)(B) for activities under programs established under subsection (a) in any fiscal year may not exceed \$10,000,000.”.

(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Subsection (e) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking “(e) REPORTS AND NOTIFICATIONS.—” and all that follows through “(B) MAT-

1 TERS TO BE INCLUDED.—” and inserting the fol-
 2 lowing:

3 “(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 31
 5 of each year following a fiscal year in which activi-
 6 ties under a program established under subsection
 7 (a) are carried out, the Secretary of Defense, in co-
 8 ordination with the Secretary of State, shall submit
 9 to the appropriate congressional committees a report
 10 on such activities under the program.

11 “(2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—”;

12 (2) by redesignating clauses (i) through (v) as
 13 subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively, and
 14 adjusting the margin of such subparagraphs, as so
 15 redesignated, two ems to the left; and

16 (3) in paragraph (2) (as redesignated)—

17 (A) in subparagraph (C) (as redesignated),
 18 by inserting “or other government organiza-
 19 tions” after “and security forces”;

20 (B) in subparagraph (D) (as redesignated),
 21 by adding at the end before the period the fol-
 22 lowing: “or chief of mission”;

23 (C) in subparagraph (E) (as redesignated),
 24 by adding at the end before the period the fol-
 25 lowing: “or how the activities support the chief

1 of mission with responsibilities for the country
 2 in which the activities occurred”; and

3 (D) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(F) A performance review of activities
 5 conducted during the previous year using
 6 metrics developed by the Chief of the National
 7 Guard Bureau.”.

8 (f) DEFINITIONS.—Subsection (g) of such section is
 9 amended—

10 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
 11 graph (3);

12 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
 13 lowing:

14 “(2) CORE COMPETENCIES.—The term ‘core
 15 competencies’ or ‘core competencies of the National
 16 Guard’ means military-to-military and military-to-ci-
 17 vilian skills and capabilities of the National Guard
 18 that would contribute the purpose of the program
 19 established under subsection (a).”; and

20 (3) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(4) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of
 22 the several States, the District of Columbia, the
 23 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Vir-
 24 gin Islands.”.

- 1 (g) REPEAL OF TERMINATION.—Such section is fur-
- 2 ther amended by striking subsection (i).

