

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2106

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and publish an action plan for improving the vocational rehabilitation services and assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. TILLIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and publish an action plan for improving the vocational rehabilitation services and assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Wounded Warrior Em-
5 ployment Improvement Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ACTION PLAN**
2 **TO IMPROVE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**
3 **AND EDUCATION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
6 erans Affairs shall develop and publish an action plan for
7 improving the services and assistance provided under
8 chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code.

9 (b) ELEMENTS.—The plan required by subsection (a)
10 shall include each of the following:

11 (1) A comprehensive analysis of, and rec-
12 ommendations and a proposed implementation plan
13 for remedying workload management challenges at
14 regional offices of the Department of Veterans Af-
15 fairs, including steps to reduce counselor caseloads
16 of veterans participating in a rehabilitation program
17 under such chapter, particularly for counselors who
18 are assisting veterans with traumatic brain injury
19 and post-traumatic stress disorder and counselors
20 with educational and vocational counseling work-
21 loads.

22 (2) A comprehensive analysis of the reasons for
23 the disproportionately low percentage of veterans
24 with service-connected disabilities who served in the
25 Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, who opt to
26 participate in a rehabilitation program under such

chapter relative to the percentage of such veterans who use their entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, including an analysis of barriers to timely enrollment in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of such title and of any barriers to a veteran enrolling in the program of that veteran's choice.

(3) Recommendations and a proposed implementation plan for encouraging more veterans with service-connected disabilities who served in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, to participate in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of such title.

(4) A national staff training program for vocational rehabilitation counselors of the Department that includes the provision of—

(A) training to assist counselors in understanding the very profound disorientation experienced by veterans with service-connected disabilities whose lives and life-plans have been upended and out of their control because of such disabilities;

(B) training to assist counselors in working in partnership with veterans on individual rehabilitation plans; and

1 (C) training on post-traumatic stress dis-
2 order and other mental health conditions and
3 on moderate to severe traumatic brain injury
4 that is designed to improve the ability of such
5 counselors to assist veterans with these condi-
6 tions, including by providing information on the
7 broad spectrum of such conditions and the ef-
8 fect of such conditions on an individual's abili-
9 ties and functional limitations.

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