

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2919

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide greater flexibility to States in carrying out the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program and employing local veterans' employment representatives, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 11, 2016

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

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide greater flexibility to States in carrying out the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program and employing local veterans' employment representatives, 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 “State Outreach for
5 Local Veterans Employment Act of 2016”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) As of the day before the date of the enact-
2 ment of this Act, unemployment among veterans in
3 the United States is much too high, especially con-
4 sidering the sacrifices veterans have made for the
5 United States.

6 (2) The Secretary of Labor makes available
7 funding to the States to support disabled veterans'
8 outreach program specialists and local veterans' em-
9 ployment representatives in each State.

10 (3) As of the day before the date of the enact-
11 ment of this Act, State and local government agen-
12 cies and departments have significant issues with
13 finding and connecting with veterans after they sep-
14 arate from service in the Armed Forces, which af-
15 fects the ability of those agencies and departments
16 to offer important services to veterans.

17 **SEC. 3. GREATER FLEXIBILITY TO STATES IN CARRYING**
18 **OUT DISABLED VETERANS' OUTREACH PRO-**
19 **GRAM AND EMPLOYING LOCAL VETERANS'**
20 **EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVES.**

21 (a) STATE AUTHORITY TO SELECT IMPLEMENTING
22 AGENCY.—Section 4102A(c) of title 38, United States
23 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new
24 paragraph:

1 “(10) The Secretary may not reject a plan submitted
2 by a State under this subsection based solely on which
3 agency the Governor of the State selects to carry out such
4 plan.”.

5 (b) COLOCATION WITH ONE-STOP CENTERS.—Sec-
6 tion 4102A of such title is amended by adding at the end
7 the following new subsection:

8 “(i) COLOCATION WITH ONE-STOP CENTERS.—The
9 Secretary shall encourage the Governor of a State to co-
10 locate the disabled veterans’ outreach program specialists
11 and local veterans’ employment representatives of such
12 State with one or more one-stop centers described in sec-
13 tion 121(e) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
14 Act (29 U.S.C. 3151(e)) in such State.”.

15 (c) TAILORING PLANS TO MEET THE UNIQUE
16 NEEDS OF STATES.—Subsection (c)(2) of such section is
17 amended by adding at the end the following new subpara-
18 graph:

19 “(C)(i) The Secretary shall encourage each State that
20 submits a plan as part of an application under subpara-
21 graph (A) to tailor such plan to meet the employment and
22 training needs of veterans in such State.

23 “(ii) In a case in which a plan described in clause
24 (i) addresses a significant barrier to employment, a State
25 may propose such barriers as the State considers appro-

1 priate for the purpose of allowing additional categories of
 2 veterans to receive services under sections 4103A and
 3 4104 of this title, subject to review and approval of such
 4 proposal by the Secretary.”.

5 (d) APPROVAL OF PLANS.—Subsection (c) of such
 6 section, as amended by subsection (a), is further amended
 7 by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

8 “(11) In any case in which a State submits a plan
 9 to the Secretary under this subsection and the Secretary
 10 objects to a portion of the plan but not the entirety of
 11 the plan, the Secretary shall—

12 “(A) approve such portions of the plan as the
 13 Secretary does not find objectionable;

14 “(B) submit to the State an explanation de-
 15 scribing which portions of the plan were not ap-
 16 proved and why; and

17 “(C) allow the State to submit for approval re-
 18 visions to the portions of the plan for which the Sec-
 19 retary submitted an explanation under subparagraph
 20 (B).”.

21 (e) PROHIBITION ON NEW FUNDING.—No additional
 22 funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the
 23 amendments made by this section. The amendments made
 24 by this section shall be carried out using amounts other-

- 1 wise appropriated to carry out chapter 41 of title 38,
- 2 United States Code.

