

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5177

To amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense, in awarding a contract for the procurement of goods or services, to give a preference to offerors that employ veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 6, 2018

Mr. KNIGHT (for himself and Mrs. MURPHY of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense, in awarding a contract for the procurement of goods or services, to give a preference to offerors that employ veterans, 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 “Encouraging Veteran
5 Employment Act of 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. PREFERENCE FOR OFFERORS EMPLOYING VET-**
2 **ERANS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 137 of title 10, United
4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing new section:

6 **“§ 2339a. Preference for offerors employing veterans**

7 “(a) PREFERENCE.—In awarding a contract for the
8 procurement of goods or services for the Department of
9 Defense, the head of an agency may give a preference to
10 offerors that employ veterans on a full-time basis. The
11 Secretary of Defense shall determine such preference
12 based on the percentage of the full-time employees of the
13 offeror who are veterans.

14 “(b) ENFORCEMENT PENALTIES FOR MISREPRESENTATION.—(1) If the head of an agency determines that
15 an offeror willfully and intentionally misrepresented the
16 veteran status of the employees of the offeror in a bid sub-
17 mitted under subsection (a), such head of an agency may
18 suspend or debar such offeror for a period of not less than
19 five years.

21 “(2) Not later than 30 days after determining that
22 an offeror should be suspended or debarred under para-
23 graph (1), the head of an agency making such determina-
24 tion shall initiate a suspension or debarment proceeding,
25 as applicable, against the offeror. The head of an agency

1 shall complete such an action not later than 90 days after
2 initiating such action.”.

3 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
4 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
5 after the item relating to section 2339 the following new
6 item:

“2339a. Preference for offerors employing veterans.”.

