

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6766

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to public institutions of higher education for the establishment of Veterans Resource Centers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2018

Mr. PANETTA (for himself and Mr. BACON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, 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 authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to public institutions of higher education for the establishment of Veterans Resource Centers, 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 “Veterans Resource
5 Center Act of 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR VETERANS RESOURCE CENTERS AT**
2 **PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDU-**
3 **CATION.**

4 (a) **GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary of Vet-
5 erans Affairs shall carry out a program under which the
6 Secretary makes grants, on a competitive basis, to public
7 institutions of higher education to enable such institutions
8 to establish and maintain Veterans Resource Centers as
9 described in subsection (d).

10 (b) **APPLICATIONS.**—To be eligible to receive a grant
11 under this section, a public institution of higher education
12 shall submit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs an appli-
13 cation at such time, in such manner, and containing such
14 information as the Secretary may require.

15 (c) **PRIORITY REGISTRATION.**—As a condition of re-
16 ceiving a grant under this section, a public institution of
17 higher education that offers priority course registration to
18 any subgroup of students who are in a class year shall
19 offer priority course registration to military-connected stu-
20 dents who are in such class year.

21 (d) **VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER.**—A public insti-
22 tution of higher education that receives a grant under this
23 section shall use the grant to establish, maintain, and pro-
24 vide services from a Veterans Resource Center on the
25 grounds of the institution. Each Veterans Resource Center

1 shall be a dedicated space where military-connected stu-
2 dents can—

3 (1) socialize with each other;

4 (2) meet with relevant individuals and organiza-
5 tions, including representatives of the Armed Forces,
6 the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Serv-
7 ice Organizations, and military student advocates;
8 and

9 (3) engage in such other activities as may ben-
10 efit the student, as determined by the institution.

11 (e) GRANT DURATION AND AMOUNT.—

12 (1) DURATION.—Each grant under this section
13 shall be made for a period of 5 years.

14 (2) AMOUNT.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
15 fairs shall determine the maximum amount of each
16 grant under this section.

17 (f) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—A public institu-
18 tion of higher education shall use a grant received under
19 this section only to supplement funds that would, in the
20 absence of such grant, be made available from other Fed-
21 eral, State, or local sources for activities supported by the
22 grant, not to supplant such funds.

23 **SEC. 3. PRIORITY RECRUITING AND ACCESS.**

24 To the extent determined to be appropriate by the
25 Secretary of Defense, the Secretary shall ensure that cov-

1 ered institutions receive priority access to military installa-
2 tions for purposes of recruiting students, including stu-
3 dents eligible for the Transition Assistance Program under
4 section 1144 of title 10, United States Code.

5 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this Act:

7 (1) The term “Armed Forces” has the meaning
8 given that term in section 101(a) of title 10, United
9 States Code.

10 (2) The term “covered institution” means a
11 public institution of higher education that—

12 (A) has a Veterans Resource Center (as
13 described in section 2(d)); and

14 (B) offers priority course registration to
15 military-connected students (as described in
16 section 2(c)).

17 (3) The term “institution of higher education”
18 has the meaning given that term in section 101(a)
19 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
20 1001(a)).

21 (4) The term “military-connected student”
22 means a student who is a member of the Armed
23 Forces or a veteran.

1 (5) The term “veteran” has the meaning given
2 that term in section 101(2) of title 38, United
3 States Code.

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