

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1378

To amend title 10, United States Code, to require an element in preseparation counseling for members of the Armed Forces on assistance and support services for caregivers of certain veterans through the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 19, 2017

Mr. ROUNDS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to require an element in preseparation counseling for members of the Armed Forces on assistance and support services for caregivers of certain veterans through 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 “Caregiver Program In-
5 formation Improvement Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. ELEMENT IN PRESEPARATION COUNSELING FOR**
 2 **MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ON AS-**
 3 **SISTANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR**
 4 **CAREGIVERS OF CERTAIN VETERANS**
 5 **THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
 6 **AFFAIRS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1142(b) of title 10,
 8 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
 9 following new paragraph:

10 “(18) A description, developed in consultation
 11 with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, of the assist-
 12 ance and support services for family caregivers of el-
 13 igible veterans under the program conducted by the
 14 Secretary of Veterans Affairs pursuant to section
 15 1720G of title 38, including the veterans covered by
 16 the program, the caregivers eligible for assistance
 17 and support through the program, and the assist-
 18 ance and support available through the program.”.

19 (b) PARTICIPATION OF POTENTIAL CAREGIVERS IN
 20 APPROPRIATE PRESEPARATION COUNSELING.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with proce-
 22 dures established by the Secretary of Defense, each
 23 Secretary of a military department shall take appro-
 24 priate actions to achieve the following:

25 (A) To determine whether each member of
 26 the Armed Forces under the jurisdiction of such

Secretary who is undergoing preseparation counseling pursuant to section 1142 of title 10, United States Code (as amended by subsection (a)), and who may require caregiver services after separation from the Armed Forces has identified an individual to provide such services after the member's separation.

(B) In the case of a member described in subparagraph (A) who has identified an individual to provide caregiver services after the member's separation, at the election of the member, to permit such individual to participate in appropriate sessions of the member's preseparation counseling in order to inform such individual of—

(i) the assistance and support services available to caregivers of members after separation from the Armed Forces; and

(ii) the manner in which the member's transition to civilian life after separation may likely affect such individual as a caregiver.

(2) CAREGIVERS.—For purposes of this subsection, individuals who provide caregiver services refers to individuals (including a spouse, partner,

1 parent, sibling, adult child, other relative, or friend)
2 who provide physical or emotional assistance to
3 former members of the Armed Forces during and
4 after their transition from military life to civilian life
5 following separation from the Armed Forces.

6 (3) DEADLINE FOR COMMENCEMENT.—Each
7 Secretary of a military department shall commence
8 the actions required pursuant to this subsection by
9 not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
10 ment of this Act.

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