

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3062

To amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to require the Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison to provide certain outreach to veterans with respect to agricultural employment, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 13, 2018

Ms. SMITH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to require the Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison to provide certain outreach to veterans with respect to agricultural employment, 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 “Veteran Empowerment
5 and Training to Facilitate Agricultural Revitalization and
6 Mobilization Act of 2018” or the “VET–2–FARM Act of
7 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. MILITARY VETERANS AGRICULTURAL LIAISON.**

2 Section 219 of the Department of Agriculture Reor-
3 ganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6919) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (b)—

5 (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at
6 the end;

7 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking the pe-
8 riod at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

9 (C) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(5) provide information to veterans concerning
11 the availability of, and eligibility requirements for,
12 positions identified within the Department of Agri-
13 culture that are available to employ or train vet-
14 erans;

15 “(6) consult with the Secretary of Defense, the
16 Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of
17 Labor, and the Administrator of the Small Business
18 Administration with respect to carrying out activities
19 that assist veterans with agriculture-related employ-
20 ment; and

21 “(7) establish and periodically update the
22 website described in subsection (d).”; and

23 (2) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(d) WEBSITE REQUIRED.—

25 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The website required under
26 subsection (b)(7) shall include the following:

1 “(A) Positions identified within the De-
2 partment of Agriculture that are available to
3 veterans for apprenticeships.

4 “(B) Apprenticeships, programs of training
5 on the job, and programs of education that are
6 approved for purposes of chapter 36 of title 38,
7 United States Code.

8 “(C) Employment skills training programs
9 for members of the Armed Forces carried out
10 pursuant to section 1143(e) of title 10, United
11 States Code.

12 “(D) Information designed to assist busi-
13 nesses, nonprofit entities, educational institu-
14 tions, and farmers interested in developing ap-
15 prenticeships, on-the-job training, educational,
16 or entrepreneurial programs for veterans in
17 navigating the process of having a program ap-
18 proved by a State approving agency for pur-
19 poses of chapter 36 of title 38, United States
20 Code, including—

21 “(i) contact information for relevant
22 offices in the Department of Defense, De-
23 partment of Veterans Affairs, Department
24 of Labor, and Small Business Administra-
25 tion;

1 “(ii) basic requirements for approval
2 by each State approving agency;

3 “(iii) recommendations with respect to
4 training and coursework to be used during
5 apprenticeships or on-the-job training that
6 will enable a veteran to be eligible for agri-
7 cultural programs; and

8 “(iv) examples of successful programs
9 and curriculums that have been approved
10 for purposes of chapter 36 of title 38,
11 United States Code (with consent of the
12 organization and without any personally
13 identifiable information).

14 “(2) REVIEW OF WEBSITE.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years
16 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
17 and once every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary
18 shall conduct a study to determine if the
19 website required under subsection (b)(7) is ef-
20 fective in providing veterans the information re-
21 quired under paragraph (1).

22 “(B) INEFFECTIVE WEBSITE.—If the Sec-
23 retary determines that the website is not effec-
24 tive under subparagraph (A), the Secretary
25 shall—

1 “(i) notify the agriculture and vet-
2 erans committees described in subpara-
3 graph (C) of that determination; and

4 “(ii) not earlier than 180 days after
5 the date on which the Secretary provides
6 notice under clause (i), terminate the
7 website.

8 “(C) AGRICULTURE AND VETERANS COM-
9 MITTEES.—The agriculture and veterans com-
10 mittees referred to in subparagraph (B)(i)
11 are—

12 “(i) the Committee on Agriculture of
13 the House of Representatives;

14 “(ii) the Committee on Agriculture,
15 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

16 “(iii) the Committee on Veterans’ Af-
17 fairs of the House of Representatives; and

18 “(iv) the Committee on Veterans’ Af-
19 fairs of the Senate.

20 “(e) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—In carrying out
21 this section, the Secretary shall consult with organizations
22 that serve veterans.”.

1 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON VETERANS EMPLOYED IN AGRI-**
2 **CULTURE.**

3 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after
4 the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,
5 the Secretary shall provide a report to the agriculture and
6 veterans committees described in subsection (b) that in-
7 cludes the following:

8 (1) Positions identified within the Department
9 of Agriculture that are, on the date of the report,
10 available for apprenticeships by service members or
11 veterans.

12 (2) A summary of the information on those po-
13 sitions that has been provided to the Department of
14 Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and
15 the Department of Labor.

16 (3) A summary of measures taken to partner
17 with the Department of Defense to identify and de-
18 velop potential career skills programs for service
19 members who transition out of the armed services.

20 (4) The information the Department of Agri-
21 culture is disseminating to agricultural entities to
22 help those entities contact the Department of De-
23 fense to establish career skills programs.

24 (5) The information the Department of Agri-
25 culture has provided to the Department of Defense,
26 Department of Veterans Affairs, Small Business Ad-

1 ministration, and the Department of Labor on avail-
2 able apprenticeships or on-the-job training available
3 to veterans.

4 (6) Information on how agricultural entities can
5 contact the Department of Agriculture for technical
6 assistance in establishing Department of Labor ap-
7 proved apprenticeships and Department of Defense
8 approved on-the-job training opportunities.

9 (b) AGRICULTURE AND VETERANS COMMITTEES.—
10 The agriculture and veterans committees referred to in
11 subsection (a) are—

12 (1) the Committee on Agriculture of the House
13 of Representatives;

14 (2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
15 and Forestry of the Senate;

16 (3) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the
17 House of Representatives; and

18 (4) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the
19 Senate.

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