

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3299

To amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the Transition Assistance Program for members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 30, 2018

Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the Transition Assistance Program for members of the Armed Forces, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4       (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5       “Improving Preparation and Resources for Occupational,  
6       Vocational, and Educational Transition for Servicemem-  
7       bers Act” or “IMPROVE Transition for Servicemembers  
8       Act”.

9       (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
10      this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Recodification, consolidation, and improvement of certain transition-related counseling and assistance authorities.
- Sec. 3. Connections of members retiring or separating from the Armed Forces with community-based organizations and related entities.
- Sec. 4. Personnel matters in connection with Transition Assistance Program.
- Sec. 5. Systems for tracking participation in Transition Assistance Program and related programs.
- Sec. 6. Information on members of the Armed Forces participating in preseparation counseling and surveys on member experiences with Transition Assistance Program counseling and services and in transition to civilian life.
- Sec. 7. Command matters in connection with transition assistance programs.
- Sec. 8. Comptroller General of the United States report on participation in transition assistance programs at small and remote military installations.
- Sec. 9. Education of members of the Armed Forces on career readiness and professional development.
- Sec. 10. Sense of Congress on Transition Assistance Program and other transition-related assistance for members of the Armed Forces.

1 **SEC. 2. RECODIFICATION, CONSOLIDATION, AND IMPROVE-**  
 2 **MENT OF CERTAIN TRANSITION-RELATED**  
 3 **COUNSELING AND ASSISTANCE AUTHORI-**  
 4 **TIES.**

5 (a) RECODIFICATION, CONSOLIDATION, AND IM-  
 6 PROVEMENT OF AUTHORITIES.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 58 of title 10,  
 8 United States Code, is amended by striking sections  
 9 1142 and 1144 and inserting after section 1141 the  
 10 following new section 1142:

11 **“§ 1142. Transition-related counseling and services:**  
 12 **Transition Assistance Program**

13 **“(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—**

14 **“(1) IN GENERAL.—**The Secretary of Defense  
 15 and the Secretary of Homeland Security with re-  
 16 spect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating

1 as a service in the Navy shall, in cooperation with  
2 the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Vet-  
3 erans Affairs, carry out a program to furnish indi-  
4 vidual counseling, information and services described  
5 in paragraph (2) to members of the armed forces  
6 under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense or  
7 the Secretary of Homeland Security, as applicable,  
8 whose retirement or separation from active duty is  
9 anticipated as of a specific date, and to the spouses  
10 of such members. The program shall be known as  
11 the ‘Transition Assistance Program’.

12 “(2) COUNSELING, INFORMATION, AND SERV-  
13 ICES.—The counseling, information, and services  
14 furnished under the program (in this section re-  
15 ferred to as ‘covered counseling, information, and  
16 services’) shall include the following in connection  
17 with the transition from military life to civilian life:

18 “(A) Preseparation counseling, including  
19 as described in subsection (f).

20 “(B) Training, employment assistance, and  
21 other related information and services, includ-  
22 ing as described in subsection (g).

23 “(C) Such other counseling, information,  
24 and services as the Secretaries referred to in  
25 paragraph (1) consider appropriate to assist

1 members of the armed forces, and their  
2 spouses, in the transition from military life to  
3 civilian life.

4 “(3) AGREEMENT.—The Secretaries referred to  
5 in paragraph (1) (in this section referred to as the  
6 ‘administering Secretaries’) shall enter into a de-  
7 tailed agreement to carry out this section.

8 “(4) CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES.—In carrying  
9 out the program, the administering Secretaries shall  
10 do the following:

11 “(A) Work together to develop and revise  
12 necessary training documents, resources, and  
13 curriculum for the purposes of the program.

14 “(B) In providing information in connec-  
15 tion with preseparation counseling under sub-  
16 section (f)(4), use experience obtained from im-  
17 plementation of the pilot program under section  
18 408 of Public Law 101–237.

19 “(C) Work with military and veterans’  
20 service organizations and other appropriate or-  
21 ganizations to promote and publicize job fairs  
22 for members furnished covered counseling, in-  
23 formation, and services under the program.

1           “(D) In the case of members furnished  
2 covered counseling, information, and services  
3 under the program who have a spouse—

4           “(i) include the spouse in such coun-  
5 seling, information, and services, at the  
6 election of the member and the spouse; and

7           “(ii) provide job placement counseling  
8 for the spouse in connection with the tran-  
9 sition of the member from military life to  
10 civilian life.

11       “(b) PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS REQUIRED.—

12           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
13 graph (2), the Secretary of Defense and the Sec-  
14 retary of Homeland Security shall require the par-  
15 ticipation in the program under this section of all  
16 members eligible for assistance under the program.

17           “(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary of Defense and  
18 the Secretary of Homeland Security may, under reg-  
19 ulations such Secretaries shall prescribe, waive the  
20 participation requirement in paragraph (1) with re-  
21 spect to such groups or classifications of members as  
22 such Secretaries determine, after consultation with  
23 the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Vet-  
24 erans Affairs, for whom participation is not and  
25 would not be of assistance based on the articulable

1 justification of such Secretaries that there is ex-  
2 traordinarily compelling reason to believe such mem-  
3 bers are unlikely to face major readjustment, health  
4 care, employment, or other challenges associated  
5 with transition to civilian life. In issuing any such  
6 waiver, the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of  
7 Homeland Security, as applicable, shall specify, in  
8 writing, the grounds for such waiver. Each Secretary  
9 shall maintain a record of all such waivers issued by  
10 such Secretary.

11 “(c) SERVICE REQUIRED BEFORE FURNISHING OF  
12 PRESEPARATION COUNSELING.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
14 the Secretary concerned shall not furnish presepara-  
15 tion counseling under the program under this section  
16 to a member who is being discharged or released be-  
17 fore the completion of the first 180 continuous days  
18 of active duty of the member.

19 “(2) RETIREMENT OR SEPARATION FOR DIS-  
20 ABILITY.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply in the case  
21 of a member who is being retired or separated for  
22 disability.

23 “(3) DETERMINATION OF DURATION OF SERV-  
24 ICE.—For purposes of calculating the days of active

1 duty of a member under paragraph (1), the Sec-  
2 retary concerned shall exclude any day as follows:

3 “(A) Any day on which the member per-  
4 formed full-time training duty or annual train-  
5 ing duty.

6 “(B) Any day on which the member at-  
7 tended, while in the active military service, a  
8 school designated as a service school by law or  
9 by the Secretary concerned.

10 “(d) COMMENCEMENT AND COMPLETION.—

11 “(1) COMMENCEMENT.—Except as provided in  
12 paragraph (4), the furnishing of covered counseling,  
13 information, and services to a member under the  
14 program under this section shall commence not later  
15 than one year before the date of anticipated retire-  
16 ment or separation of the member from the armed  
17 forces.

18 “(2) COMPLETION.—Except as provided in  
19 paragraph (4), the furnishing of covered counseling,  
20 information, and services to a member under the  
21 program shall be completed as follows:

22 “(A) In the case of a member retiring from  
23 the armed forces, by not later than 120 days  
24 before the date of retirement.

1           “(B) In the case of a member otherwise  
2           separating from the armed forces, by not later  
3           than 90 days before the date of separation.

4           “(3) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sub-  
5           section may be construed to prohibit the furnishing  
6           of covered counseling, information, and services to a  
7           member under the program, or other counseling, as-  
8           sistance, and information and services similar to cov-  
9           ered counseling, information, and services, at times  
10          other than the times provided for by paragraphs (1)  
11          and (2).

12          “(4) UNANTICIPATED RETIREMENT OR SEPARA-  
13          TION IN CONNECTION WITH PRESEPARATION COUN-  
14          SELING.—In the event that a retirement or other  
15          separation from the armed forces is unanticipated  
16          until there are 90 or fewer days before the antici-  
17          pated retirement or separation date, or in the event  
18          a member of a reserve component is being demobi-  
19          lized under circumstances in which (as determined  
20          by the Secretary concerned) operational require-  
21          ments make the 120-day or 90-day requirement  
22          under paragraph (2) unfeasible, preseparation coun-  
23          seling under the program shall begin as soon as pos-  
24          sible within the remaining period of service.

25          “(e) FURNISHING ON IN-PERSON BASIS.—



1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
2           graph (2), covered counseling, information, and serv-  
3           ices under the program under this section shall be  
4           furnished to a member on an in-person basis.

5           “(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary of Defense and  
6           the Secretary of Homeland Security, as applicable,  
7           may waive the requirement in paragraph (1) with re-  
8           spect to a particular member if such Secretary de-  
9           termines, using a system established by such Sec-  
10          retary for purposes of this paragraph, that the fur-  
11          nishing of covered counseling, information, and serv-  
12          ices on an online, other electronic, or other basis,  
13          rather than on an in-person basis, is necessary to  
14          avoid extraordinarily significant impediments to im-  
15          mediate mission needs. In issuing any such waiver,  
16          such Secretary shall specify, in writing, the grounds  
17          for such waiver.

18          “(f) TOPICS COVERED BY PRESEPARATION COUN-  
19          SELING.—The preseparation counseling furnished a mem-  
20          ber under the program under this section shall include the  
21          following:

22               “(1) Financial planning assistance, including  
23               information on budgeting, saving, credit, loans, and  
24               taxes.

1           “(2) An explanation of the procedures for and  
2           advantages of affiliating with the Selected Reserve.

3           “(3) Information on programs and benefits re-  
4           lated to veteran status, including—

5                   “(A) a description of health care and other  
6                   benefits to which the member may be entitled  
7                   under the laws administered by the Secretary of  
8                   Veterans Affairs, and information regarding the  
9                   means by which the member can receive addi-  
10                  tional counseling regarding the member’s actual  
11                  entitlement to such benefits and apply for such  
12                  benefits;

13                   “(B) educational assistance benefits to  
14                   which the member is entitled under the Mont-  
15                   gomery GI Bill and other educational assistance  
16                   programs because of the member’s service in  
17                   the armed forces;

18                   “(C) a description of the compensation and  
19                   vocational rehabilitation benefits to which the  
20                   member may be entitled under laws adminis-  
21                   tered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, if  
22                   the member is being medically separated or is  
23                   being retired under chapter 61 of this title;

24                   “(D) information on home loan services  
25                   and housing assistance benefits available under

1 the laws administered by the Secretary of Vet-  
2 erans Affairs and counseling on responsible bor-  
3 rowing practices;

4 “(E) a description, developed in consulta-  
5 tion with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, of  
6 the assistance and support services for family  
7 caregivers of eligible veterans under the pro-  
8 gram conducted by the Secretary of Veterans  
9 Affairs pursuant to section 1720G of title 38,  
10 including the veterans covered by the program,  
11 the caregivers eligible for assistance and sup-  
12 port through the program, and the assistance  
13 and support available through the program; and

14 “(F) information, including appropriate  
15 training, on eligibility for enrollment and  
16 disenrollment in the Survivor Benefit Plan  
17 under chapter 73 of this title and other survivor  
18 benefits available under the laws administered  
19 by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of  
20 Veterans Affairs.

21 “(4) Information on civilian employment, occu-  
22 pational requirements, and related assistance, in-  
23 cluding—

24 “(A) labor market information;

25 “(B) instruction in resume preparation;

1           “(C) job analysis techniques, job search  
2 techniques, job interview techniques, and salary  
3 negotiation techniques;

4           “(D) certification and licensure require-  
5 ments that are applicable to civilian occupa-  
6 tions, including State-submitted and approved  
7 lists of military training and skills that satisfy  
8 occupational certifications and licenses;

9           “(E) civilian occupations that correspond  
10 to military occupational specialties;

11           “(F) information on the requirements  
12 under section 1143(a) of this title for the De-  
13 partment of Defense and the Department of  
14 Homeland Security to provide proper certifi-  
15 cation or verification of job skills and experi-  
16 ence acquired while on active duty that may  
17 have application to employment in the civilian  
18 sector for use in seeking civilian employment  
19 and in obtaining job search skills;

20           “(G) government and private-sector pro-  
21 grams for job search and job placement assist-  
22 ance, including the public and community serv-  
23 ice jobs program carried out under section  
24 1143a of this title, and information regarding  
25 the placement programs established under sec-

1           tions 1152 and 1153 of this title and the  
2           Troops-to-Teachers Program;

3           “(H) priority of service for veterans in the  
4           receipt of employment, training, and placement  
5           services provided under qualified job training  
6           programs of the Department of Labor;

7           “(I) veterans small business ownership and  
8           entrepreneurship programs of the Small Busi-  
9           ness Administration and assistance to members  
10          in their efforts to obtain loans and grants from  
11          the Small Business Administration and other  
12          Federal, State, and local agencies;

13          “(J) employment and reemployment rights  
14          and obligations under chapter 43 of title 38;

15          “(K) veterans preference in Federal em-  
16          ployment and Federal procurement opportuni-  
17          ties;

18          “(L) disability-related employment and  
19          education protections; and

20          “(M) career and employment opportunities  
21          available to members with transportation secu-  
22          rity cards issued under section 70105 of title  
23          46.

24          “(5) Information related to transition and relo-  
25          cation, including—

1           “(A) information on the geographic areas  
2           in which such members will relocate after sepa-  
3           ration from the armed forces, including, to the  
4           degree possible, information about employment  
5           opportunities, the labor market, and the cost of  
6           living in those areas (including, to the extent  
7           practicable, the cost and availability of housing,  
8           child care, education, and medical and dental  
9           care);

10           “(B) Federal, State, and local programs,  
11           and programs of military and veterans’ service  
12           organizations, that may be of assistance to such  
13           members after separation from the armed  
14           forces;

15           “(C) counseling (for the member and de-  
16           pendents) on the effect of career change on in-  
17           dividuals and their families and the availability  
18           to the member and dependents of suicide pre-  
19           vention resources following separation from the  
20           armed forces;

21           “(D) the availability of mental health serv-  
22           ices and the treatment of post-traumatic stress  
23           disorder, anxiety disorders, depression, suicidal  
24           ideations, or other mental health conditions as-  
25           sociated with service in the armed forces and

1 information concerning the availability of treat-  
2 ment options and resources to address sub-  
3 stance abuse, including alcohol, prescription  
4 drug, and opioid abuse;

5 “(E) the availability of medical and dental  
6 coverage following separation from active duty,  
7 including the opportunity to elect into the con-  
8 version health policy provided under section  
9 1145 of this title; and

10 “(F) information on the required deduc-  
11 tion, pursuant to subsection (h) of section  
12 1175a of this title, from disability compensation  
13 paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of  
14 amounts equal to any voluntary separation pay  
15 received by the member under such section.

16 “(g) SPECIFIC COMPONENTS OF COVERED COUN-  
17 SELING, INFORMATION, AND SERVICES.—The covered  
18 counseling, information, and services furnished to a mem-  
19 ber under the program under this section shall include the  
20 following:

21 “(1) PRELIMINARY MEETING.—Upon the com-  
22 mencement of the furnishing of covered counseling,  
23 information, and services, a member shall meet with  
24 a counselor assigned to the member for purposes of

1 the program. During the meeting, the following shall  
2 occur:

3 “(A) The counselor shall furnish the mem-  
4 ber the following:

5 “(i) A military-civilian equivalency re-  
6 view designed to determine what licensing,  
7 credentialing, and other requirements for  
8 occupations in the civilian sector align with  
9 or would be satisfied by the military occu-  
10 pational specialty (MOS) and other mili-  
11 tary skills and experience of the member.

12 “(ii) An individualized, personality-  
13 based skills and career assessment de-  
14 signed to determine the personal strengths  
15 and career interests of the member.

16 “(iii) Assistance in developing an indi-  
17 vidual transition plan for the member to  
18 attempt to achieve the educational, train-  
19 ing, employment, and financial objectives  
20 of the member and, if the member has a  
21 spouse, the spouse of the member.

22 “(iv) Information on organizations,  
23 entities, and resources located in the com-  
24 munity in which the member will reside  
25 after separation, retirement, or discharge



1 described under subsection (f)(5)(B) and  
2 section 3(a) of the Improving Presepara-  
3 tion and Resources for Occupational, Voca-  
4 tional, and Educational Transition for Ser-  
5 vicemembers Act.

6 “(v) An introduction to additional  
7 matters to be furnished under subsection  
8 (f), and to such other matters as the ad-  
9 ministering Secretaries consider appro-  
10 priate.

11 “(B) The member may elect one or both of  
12 the following:

13 “(i) To have the Secretary concerned  
14 (in consultation with the Secretary of Vet-  
15 erans Affairs and the Secretary of Labor)  
16 provide the contact information of the  
17 member to the organizations, entities, and  
18 resources described in subparagraph  
19 (A)(iv).

20 “(ii) To have the Secretary of Defense  
21 and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
22 transmit information on the member from  
23 Department of Defense Form DD-214 to  
24 State veterans agencies for transmittal to  
25 community-based organizations and related

1 entities that provide or connect veterans to  
 2 benefits and services in accordance with  
 3 section 3 of the Improving Preseparation  
 4 and Resources for Occupational, Vocation-  
 5 al, and Educational Transition for Service-  
 6 members Act.

7 “(2) PRESEPARATION COUNSELING.—A course  
 8 of instruction, of at least one day, on such topics  
 9 specified in subsection (f) as the administering Sec-  
 10 retaries consider appropriate.

11 “(3) INSTRUCTION ON SPECIFIC POST-SERVICE  
 12 PATHWAYS.—A course of instruction, of not less  
 13 than two consecutive days, on one of the following  
 14 matters, as elected by the member:

15 “(A) Employment.

16 “(B) Higher education.

17 “(C) Entrepreneurship.

18 “(D) Career and technical training.

19 “(E) Such other matters as the admin-  
 20 istering Secretaries consider appropriate.

21 “(4) INSTRUCTION ON PROFESSIONAL DEVEL-  
 22 OPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.—A course  
 23 of instruction, of at least one day, on general profes-  
 24 sional development and employment assistance, in-  
 25 cluding resume writing, interviewing skills, and such

1 other matters as the administering Secretaries con-  
2 sider appropriate.

3 “(5) INSTRUCTION ON VETERANS BENEFITS.—

4 A course of instruction, of at least one day, on the  
5 benefits and services available under the law admin-  
6 istered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, includ-  
7 ing the manner of registration for receipt of such  
8 benefits and services and such other matters in con-  
9 nection with such benefits and services as the Sec-  
10 retary of Veterans Affairs considers appropriate.

11 “(6) ORDER OF COUNSELING AND INSTRUCC-

12 TION.—A member shall receive the counseling and  
13 instruction required by paragraphs (2) and (3) be-  
14 fore any other instruction required by this sub-  
15 section. A member may undertake any other instruc-  
16 tion required by this subsection at a pace and order  
17 satisfactory to the member, subject to the require-  
18 ment to complete all such instruction by the deadline  
19 provided in subsection (d)(2).

20 “(7) FREQUENCY OF TRAINING.—The Sec-

21 retary concerned shall ensure, to the extent prac-  
22 ticable and subject to urgent mission needs, that  
23 members who have commenced receipt of counseling  
24 and instruction under the program by the com-  
25 mencement date provided in subsection (d)(1) and

1 seek to receive such counseling or instruction again,  
2 or receive additional such counseling or instruction,  
3 under this subsection before retirement or separa-  
4 tion, are able to do so.

5 “(h) RECORD OF RECEIPT OF COVERED COUN-  
6 SELING, INFORMATION, AND SERVICES IN SERVICE  
7 RECORDS.—A notation on the receipt of counseling and  
8 instruction on each matter specified in subsections (f) and  
9 (g) in connection with the furnishing of covered coun-  
10 seling, information, and services under the program under  
11 this section, signed by the member concerned, shall be  
12 placed in the service record of each member receiving such  
13 counseling and instruction.

14 “(i) USE OF PERSONNEL AND ORGANIZATIONS.—In  
15 carrying out the program under this section, the admin-  
16 istering Secretaries may—

17 “(1) provide for the use of disabled veterans  
18 outreach program specialists, local veterans’ employ-  
19 ment representatives, and other employment service  
20 personnel funded by the Department of Labor to the  
21 extent that the Secretary of Labor determines that  
22 such use will not significantly interfere with the pro-  
23 vision of services or other benefits to eligible vet-  
24 erans and other eligible recipients of such services or  
25 benefits;

1           “(2) use military and civilian personnel of the  
2       Department of Defense and the Department of  
3       Homeland Security;

4           “(3) use personnel of the Veterans Benefits Ad-  
5       ministration of the Department of Veterans Affairs  
6       and other appropriate personnel of that Department;

7           “(4) use representatives of military and vet-  
8       erans’ service organizations;

9           “(5) enter into contracts with public entities;  
10      and

11          “(6) enter into contracts with private entities,  
12      particularly with qualified private entities that have  
13      experience with instructing members of the armed  
14      forces eligible for covered counseling, information,  
15      and services under the program on—

16          “(A) private sector culture, resume writ-  
17      ing, career networking, and training on job  
18      search technologies;

19          “(B) academic readiness and educational  
20      opportunities; and

21          “(C) such other matters in connection with  
22      the program as the administering Secretaries  
23      consider appropriate.

24      “(j) REPORTS AND NOTICE IN CONNECTION WITH  
25      PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS.—

1           “(1) INFORMATION WITHIN EXECUTIVE  
2 BRANCH.—The Secretary of Defense and the Sec-  
3 retary of Homeland Security shall each ensure that  
4 information on participation in the program under  
5 this section by members under the jurisdiction of  
6 such Secretary (including timeliness of receipt of  
7 covered counseling, information, and services, rates  
8 of participation on an in-person basis and an online  
9 or other electronic basis, and number of waivers (if  
10 any) issued pursuant to subsection (e)(2)) is made  
11 available by electronic means to the following:

12                   “(A) Commanders at all levels of command  
13 at the installations concerned.

14                   “(B) All counselors and managers of coun-  
15 seling under the program.

16                   “(C) The Secretary of Labor, the Sec-  
17 retary of Veterans Affairs, and the heads of any  
18 other departments and agencies of the Federal  
19 Government involved in the furnishing of coun-  
20 seling and other assistance under the program.

21           “(2) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

22                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of De-  
23 fense and the Secretary of Homeland Security  
24 shall each submit to Congress each year a re-  
25 port on the furnishing of covered counseling, in-

1 formation, and services under the program to  
2 members of the armed forces under the juris-  
3 diction of such Secretary during the preceding  
4 year. Each report shall include, for the year  
5 covered by such report, the following:

6 “(i) The number of members eligible  
7 for covered counseling, information, and  
8 services under the program.

9 “(ii) The number of members fur-  
10 nished covered counseling, information,  
11 and services under the program.

12 “(iii) An assessment of the extent to  
13 which such counseling, information, and  
14 services were furnished within the times  
15 provided for by paragraphs (1) and (2) of  
16 subsection (d).

17 “(iv) Rates of participation on an in-  
18 person basis and an online or other elec-  
19 tronic basis, and number of waivers (if  
20 any) issued pursuant to subsection (e)(2).

21 “(v) The number of participants in  
22 the programs under subsection (e) of sec-  
23 tion 1143 of this title (commonly referred  
24 to as ‘Job Training, Employment Skills,

1 Apprenticeships and Internships (JTEST–  
2 AI)’ or ‘Skill Bridge’).

3 “(vi) Such other information as is re-  
4 quired to provide Congress with a com-  
5 prehensive description of participation of  
6 the members in the program.

7 “(B) PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION.—  
8 Information in each report under subparagraph  
9 (A) shall be broken out—

10 “(i) by armed force, and by compo-  
11 nent of the armed forces;

12 “(ii) by basis of separation from the  
13 armed forces (whether retirement or other  
14 separation and whether voluntary or invol-  
15 untary); and

16 “(iii) by characterization of discharge  
17 from the armed forces.

18 “(k) TRANSMITTAL OF MEDICAL INFORMATION TO  
19 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—In the case of a  
20 member being medically separated or being retired under  
21 chapter 61 of this title, the Secretary concerned shall en-  
22 sure (subject to the consent of the member) that a copy  
23 of the member’s service medical record (including any re-  
24 sults of a Physical Evaluation Board) is transmitted to



1 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs within 60 days of the  
2 separation or retirement.”.

3 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of sec-  
4 tions at the beginning of chapter 58 of such title is  
5 amended—

6 (A) by striking the item relating to section  
7 1142 and inserting the following new item:

“1142. Transition-related counseling and services: Transition Assistance Pro-  
gram.”;

8 and

9 (B) by striking the item relating to section  
10 1144.

11 (b) DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF REVISED  
12 PROGRAM.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The administering Secre-  
14 taries shall take appropriate actions to carry out any  
15 modifications to the Transition Assistance Program  
16 under section 1142 of title 10, United States Code,  
17 that are required by reason of the amendments  
18 made by subsection (a) by not later than the date  
19 that is one year after the date of the enactment of  
20 this Act in order to ensure that the furnishing of  
21 covered counseling, information, and services to  
22 members of the Armed Forces under the Program is  
23 fully implemented as of such date.

1           (2) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after  
2           the date of the enactment of this Act, the admin-  
3           istering Secretaries shall submit to the appropriate  
4           committees of Congress a report on specific actions  
5           to be taken to implement any modifications to the  
6           Transition Assistance Program under section 1142  
7           of title 10, United States Code, that are required by  
8           reason of the amendments made by subsection (a).

9           (3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

10           (A) The term “appropriate committees of  
11           Congress” means—

12                   (i) the Committee on Armed Services  
13                   and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of  
14                   the Senate; and

15                   (ii) the Committee on Armed Services  
16                   and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of  
17                   the House of Representatives.

18           (B) The terms “administering Secretaries”  
19           and “covered counseling, information, and serv-  
20           ices” have the meanings given such terms for  
21           purposes of section 1142 of title 10, United  
22           States Code, as amended by subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 3. CONNECTIONS OF MEMBERS RETIRING OR SEPA-**  
2 **RATING FROM THE ARMED FORCES WITH**  
3 **COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND**  
4 **RELATED ENTITIES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense and the  
6 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly seek to enter  
7 into memoranda of understanding (MOUs) or other agree-  
8 ments with State veterans agencies under which informa-  
9 tion from Department of Defense Form DD–214 on indi-  
10 viduals undergoing retirement, discharge, or release from  
11 the Armed Forces is transmitted through one or more  
12 State veterans agencies, as elected by such individuals, to  
13 community-based organizations and related entities that  
14 provide or connect veterans to benefits or services as fol-  
15 lows:

- 16 (1) Assistance in preparation of resumes.
- 17 (2) Training for employment interviews.
- 18 (3) Employment recruitment training.
- 19 (4) Other services leading directly to a success-  
20 ful transition from military life to civilian life.
- 21 (5) Healthcare, including care for mental  
22 health.
- 23 (6) Transportation or transportation-related  
24 services.
- 25 (7) Housing.

1           (8) Such other benefits or services as the Secre-  
 2           taries jointly consider appropriate for purposes of  
 3           this section.

4           (b) INFORMATION TRANSMITTED.—The information  
 5           transmitted on individuals as described in subsection (a)  
 6           shall be such information on Form DD–214 as the Secre-  
 7           taries jointly consider appropriate to facilitate community-  
 8           based organizations and related entities in providing or  
 9           connecting such individuals to benefits and services as de-  
 10          scribed in subsection (a).

11          (c) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—Information on an  
 12          individual may be transmitted to and through a State vet-  
 13          erans agency as described in subsection (a) only with the  
 14          consent of the individual. In giving such consent, an indi-  
 15          vidual shall specify the following:

16               (1) The State veterans agency or agencies elect-  
 17               ed by the individual to transmit such information as  
 18               described in subsection (a).

19               (2) The benefits and services for which contact  
 20               information shall be so transmitted.

21               (3) Such other information on the individual as  
 22               the individual considers appropriate in connection  
 23               with the transmittal.

24          (d) DATABASE ON ORGANIZATIONS AND ENTITIES.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense  
2       shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Veteran  
3       Affairs and State veterans agencies, maintain a  
4       database of community-based organizations and re-  
5       lated entities described in subsection (a) that have  
6       been selected by State veterans agencies as potential  
7       recipients of information transmitted as described in  
8       that subsection.

9           (2) ACCESS.—Access to the database shall be  
10      provided to the following:

11                (A) Members of the Armed Forces who are  
12                retiring or separating from the Armed Forces.

13                (B) Veterans.

14      (e) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
15      gress that State veterans agencies, in carrying out a  
16      memorandum of understanding or other agreement en-  
17      tered into as described in subsection (a), should—

18                (1) have authority to identify and screen com-  
19                munity based organizations and related entities de-  
20                scribed in subsection (a) who should be recipients of  
21                information transmitted as described in that sub-  
22                section by reason of being best capable of both serv-  
23                ing veterans and protecting the privacy of informa-  
24                tion transmitted to them pursuant to that sub-  
25                section; and

1           (2) connect individuals described in that sub-  
2           section to community-based organizations and re-  
3           lated entities identified and screened as described in  
4           paragraph (1).

5   **SEC. 4. PERSONNEL MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**  
6

7           (a) MINIMUM NUMBER OF DEDICATED PER-  
8   SONNEL.—

9           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense  
10          shall take appropriate actions to ensure that the  
11          minimum number of full-time equivalent personnel  
12          of the Department of Defense dedicated to coun-  
13          seling and other activities under the Transition As-  
14          sistance Program at each military installation each  
15          year is not less than one for every 250 members of  
16          the Armed Forces generally projected to be eligible  
17          for participation in the Transition Assistance Pro-  
18          gram at such military installation in such year. The  
19          Secretary may not satisfy the requirement in this  
20          paragraph through the use of contractor personnel.

21          (2) APPLICABILITY.—The Secretary shall com-  
22          ply with the requirement in paragraph (1) com-  
23          mencing not later than one year after the date of the  
24          enactment of this Act.

1 (b) MINIMUM CIVILIAN WORKPLACE REQUIRE-  
2 MENT.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of providing  
4 counselling under and otherwise administering the  
5 Transition Assistance Program, the Secretary of De-  
6 fense shall take appropriate actions to ensure that,  
7 to the maximum extent practicable, each individual  
8 employed by the Department of Defense to provide  
9 counseling under the Transition Assistance Program  
10 has both prior military experience and not less than  
11 two years of experience in civilian employment at the  
12 time of employment by the Department for such  
13 purposes.

14 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of  
15 Congress that, in employing individuals to provide  
16 counseling under the Transition Assistance Pro-  
17 gram, the Secretary should consider affording a  
18 preference to individuals with longevity of experience  
19 in civilian employment at the time of employment by  
20 the Department for that purpose.

21 (3) APPLICABILITY.—The Secretary shall com-  
22 ply with the requirement in paragraph (1) com-  
23 mencing not later than 90 days after the date of the  
24 enactment of this Act.

1 (c) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than  
 2 one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
 3 Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report  
 4 on the actions taken to implement this section, includ-  
 5 ing—

6 (1) the actions taken to implement subsection  
 7 (b);

8 (2) the number of individuals employed by the  
 9 Department under subsection (b);

10 (3) the percentage of individuals employed in  
 11 connection with the Transition Assistance Program  
 12 who meet the requirement in subsection (b)(1); and

13 (4) such other information as the Secretary  
 14 considers appropriate.

15 (d) TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DEFINED.—  
 16 In this section, the term “Transition Assistance Program”  
 17 means the program of counseling, information, and serv-  
 18 ices under section 1142 of title 10, United States Code  
 19 (as amended by section 2 of this Act).

20 **SEC. 5. SYSTEMS FOR TRACKING PARTICIPATION IN TRAN-**  
 21 **SITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND RELATED**  
 22 **PROGRAMS.**

23 (a) SYSTEMS FOR TRACKING PARTICIPATION.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Commencing not later than  
 25 one year after the date of the enactment of this Act,



1 the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of  
2 Homeland Security shall each establish and main-  
3 tain an electronic tracking system and database in  
4 order to collect, assemble, and make available as de-  
5 scribed in paragraph (2) information on the partici-  
6 pation and progress of members of the Armed  
7 Forces under the jurisdiction of such Secretary in  
8 the Transition Assistance Program at the individual,  
9 installation, and total forces levels, including infor-  
10 mation on the following:

11 (A) Compliance with the commencement  
12 and completion timeframes of the Transition  
13 Assistance Program required by subsection (d)  
14 of section 1142 of title 10, United States Code  
15 (as amended by section 2 of this Act).

16 (B) Participation and completion by mem-  
17 bers of the specific elements of the Transition  
18 Assistance Program described in subsection (g)  
19 of such section 1142.

20 (C) Notes made by counselors in connec-  
21 tion with the provision of casework and other  
22 services under the Transition Assistance Pro-  
23 gram.

24 (D) Such other matters in connection with  
25 participation and progress of members in the

1 Transition Assistance Program as such Sec-  
2 retary considers appropriate.

3 (2) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—Informa-  
4 tion in the tracking systems and databases required  
5 by paragraph (1), other than information described  
6 in paragraph (1)(C), shall be available as follows:

7 (A) To members of the Armed Forces un-  
8 dergoing the transition from military life to ci-  
9 vilian life, for the personal information of mem-  
10 bers.

11 (B) To commanders of members of the  
12 Armed Forces at all levels of command for  
13 members under their command.

14 (C) To all counselors and managers of  
15 counseling under the Transition Assistance Pro-  
16 gram for members they serve.

17 (D) To the Secretary of Labor, the Sec-  
18 retary of Veterans Affairs, and the heads of any  
19 other departments and agencies of the Federal  
20 Government involved in the furnishing of coun-  
21 seling and services under the Transition Assist-  
22 ance Program.

23 (b) DIGITAL PORTAL.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Commencing not later than  
25 two years after the date of the enactment of this

1 Act, each Secretary concerned shall establish and  
2 maintain an interactive, Internet-based platform for  
3 members of the Armed Forces under the jurisdiction  
4 of such Secretary to act as a portal for members un-  
5 dergoing counseling under the Transition Assistance  
6 Program in order to permit such members to do the  
7 following:

8 (A) View information on and track  
9 progress of the member concerned in the re-  
10 quired instruction and counseling of the Transi-  
11 tion Assistance Program.

12 (B) View the individual assessment of the  
13 member concerned taken pursuant to subsection  
14 (g)(1)(A)(ii) of section 1142 of title 10, United  
15 States Code (as amended by section 2 of this  
16 Act).

17 (C) View and make changes to the transi-  
18 tion plan of the member concerned as described  
19 in subsection (g)(1)(A)(iii) of such section  
20 1142.

21 (D) Access information on the programs  
22 and resources available to members of the  
23 Armed Forces and their spouses at the military  
24 installation concerned in connection with the  
25 Transition Assistance Program.

1 (E) Access information and resources re-  
2 lated to the topics under subsection (f) of such  
3 section 1142.

4 (F) Access the online version of the cur-  
5 riculum of instruction under the Transition As-  
6 sistance Program.

7 (G) Access and download a digital copy of  
8 the Joint Service Transcript of the member  
9 concerned.

10 (H) Schedule, view, or change appoint-  
11 ments with counselors in connection with the  
12 Transition Assistance Program.

13 (I) Access the database maintained pursu-  
14 ant under section 3(d).

15 (J) Take the surveys conducted pursuant  
16 to section 6(b).

17 (K) Access such other digital information  
18 and resources in connection with the Transition  
19 Assistance Program as the Secretaries con-  
20 cerned and the administering Secretaries jointly  
21 consider appropriate.

22 (2) PROTECTION OF PRIVACY.—In carrying out  
23 this subsection, the Secretaries concerned shall take  
24 all necessary and appropriate actions to protect the

1 personal privacy of individual members of the Armed  
2 Forces as required by law.

3 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) The term “Transition Assistance Program”  
5 means the program of counseling, information, and  
6 services under section 1142 of title 10, United  
7 States Code (as amended by section 2 of this Act).

8 (2) The term “Secretary concerned” has the  
9 meaning given that term in section 101(a)(9) of title  
10 10, United States Code.

11 (3) The term “administering Secretaries” has  
12 the meaning given that term for purposes of section  
13 1142 of title 10, United States Code (as so amend-  
14 ed).

15 **SEC. 6. INFORMATION ON MEMBERS OF THE ARMED**  
16 **FORCES PARTICIPATING IN PRESEPARATION**  
17 **COUNSELING AND SURVEYS ON MEMBER EX-**  
18 **PERIENCES WITH TRANSITION ASSISTANCE**  
19 **PROGRAM COUNSELING AND SERVICES AND**  
20 **IN TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN LIFE.**

21 (a) INFORMATION ON MEMBERS UNDERGOING  
22 PRESEPARATION COUNSELING.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—At the commencement of the  
24 furnishing of preseparation counseling to a member  
25 of the Armed Forces under the jurisdiction of such

1 Secretary pursuant to section 1142 of title 10,  
2 United States Code (as amended by section 2 of this  
3 Act), and in connection with the creation of a transi-  
4 tion plan for the member as described in subsection  
5 (g)(1)(A)(iii) of such section 1142, the Secretary  
6 concerned shall obtain the following information on  
7 the member:

8 (A) Age.

9 (B) Sex.

10 (C) Grade.

11 (D) Duration of service in the Armed  
12 Forces.

13 (E) Whether service in a regular or reserve  
14 component of the Armed Forces.

15 (F) Military occupational specialty.

16 (G) Whether retiring or otherwise sepa-  
17 rating from the Armed Forces.

18 (H) Anticipated characterization of dis-  
19 charge or release.

20 (I) Scope and degree of any disability, if  
21 known, incurred in or aggravated by military  
22 service.

23 (J) Location of separation, if known.

24 (K) Intended residence and occupational  
25 plans, if known, following separation.

1           (L) Intent, if known, to use educational as-  
2           sistance available under the laws administered  
3           by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

4           (2) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—Each  
5           Secretary concerned shall ensure that information  
6           obtained pursuant to paragraph (1) is made avail-  
7           able online to the individuals specified in section  
8           5(a)(2) through the electronic tracking system and  
9           database required by section 5(a) and to individual  
10          members through the digital portal required by sec-  
11          tion 5(b).

12          (3) COMMENCEMENT.—Each Secretary con-  
13          cerned shall commence the obtaining of information  
14          pursuant to paragraph (1) by not later than one  
15          year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

16          (b) SURVEYS ON MEMBER EXPERIENCES WITH  
17          TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COUNSELING, INFOR-  
18          MATION, AND SERVICES.—

19               (1) IN GENERAL.—Each Secretary concerned  
20               shall conduct surveys of members of the Armed  
21               Forces under the jurisdiction of such Secretary at  
22               the conclusion of the receipt by such members of  
23               counseling, information, and services under the  
24               Transition Assistance Program in order to assess  
25               the experiences of such members, and their spouses

1 (if applicable), in the receipt of such counseling, in-  
2 formation, and services.

3 (2) ELEMENTS.—The surveys under paragraph  
4 (1) shall be designed to obtain information on the  
5 Transition Assistance Program as follows:

6 (A) Member assessments of the quality of  
7 instruction.

8 (B) Member satisfaction with the scope  
9 and quality of courses and services, including  
10 courses under paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of  
11 subsection (g) of such section 1142.

12 (C) Member assessments of the adequacy  
13 of courses and services to meet member transi-  
14 tion needs.

15 (D) Obstacles or barriers confronted by  
16 members in accessing counseling and services.

17 (E) Whether members participated in the  
18 curriculum of the Transition Assistance Pro-  
19 gram on an in-person basis or an online, other  
20 electronic, or other basis.

21 (F) Such other matters as the admin-  
22 istering Secretaries shall specify for purposes of  
23 this subsection.

24 (3) COMMENCEMENT.—Each Secretary con-  
25 cerned shall commence the conduct of surveys pursu-



1 ant to paragraph (1) by not later than 120 days  
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

3 (c) SURVEYS ON MEMBER EXPERIENCES IN TRANSI-  
4 TION TO CIVILIAN LIFE.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year  
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and  
7 every two years thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans  
8 Affairs shall, in consultation with the Secretary of  
9 Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the  
10 Secretary of Education, and the Secretary of Labor,  
11 conduct a survey of veterans who have been retired,  
12 discharged, or released from the Armed Forces for  
13 at least one year, and not longer than four years, at  
14 the time of such survey in order to assess the experi-  
15 ences of such veterans in the transition from mili-  
16 tary life to civilian life.

17 (2) MANNER OF CONDUCT.—The Secretary of  
18 Veterans Affairs may conduct surveys under para-  
19 graph (1) through a contract with a qualified non-  
20 governmental organization selected by the Secretary  
21 for purposes of this subsection.

22 (3) ELEMENTS.—The surveys under paragraph  
23 (1) shall be designed to obtain the information on  
24 the following:

1 (A) Current employment status, and em-  
2 ployment history since retirement or separation.

3 (B) Receipt, whether currently or in the  
4 past, of unemployment benefits.

5 (C) Educational attainment after military  
6 service.

7 (D) Participation of or membership in a  
8 veterans' service organization or other support  
9 or other group oriented towards veterans.

10 (E) Satisfaction with transition, including  
11 satisfaction with counseling and assistance re-  
12 ceived in connection with transition (whether  
13 pursuant to the Transition Assistance Program  
14 or a program under any other provision of law).

15 (F) Whether veterans participated in the  
16 curriculum of the Transition Assistance Pro-  
17 gram on an in-person basis or an online, other  
18 electronic, or other basis.

19 (G) Challenges faced during transition.

20 (H) If married at the time of transition—

21 (i) participation of spouse in the coun-  
22 seling and assistance described in subpara-  
23 graph (E); and

24 (ii) satisfaction of spouse with the  
25 counseling and assistance described in sub-

1 paragraph (E), if any, participated in by  
2 the spouse.

3 (I) Whether veterans felt sufficiently pre-  
4 pared for a career, education, or other advance-  
5 ment after military service as a result of par-  
6 ticipation in the Transition Assistance Pro-  
7 gram.

8 (J) Recommendations for improvements to  
9 the counseling and assistance furnished in con-  
10 nection with transition, or for other mecha-  
11 nisms to ease and facilitate transition.

12 (K) Such other matters as the Secretary of  
13 Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the other  
14 Secretaries referred to in paragraph (1), con-  
15 siders appropriate.

16 (4) FREQUENCY.—A consenting veteran shall  
17 be surveyed under paragraph (1) once during the  
18 three-year period beginning one year after the date  
19 of the separation of the veteran from the Armed  
20 Forces, and may be surveyed twice during such pe-  
21 riod.

22 (5) RESULTS.—The results of any survey under  
23 this subsection shall be broken out by number of  
24 years post-separation of the veterans covered by  
25 such survey.

1 (d) PROTECTION OF PRIVACY.—In carrying out this  
 2 section, the administering Secretaries, the Secretary of  
 3 Education, and the Secretaries concerned shall take all  
 4 necessary and appropriate actions to protect the personal  
 5 privacy of individual members of the Armed Forces and  
 6 veterans as required by law.

7 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) The term “Transition Assistance Program”  
 9 means the program of counseling, information, and  
 10 services under section 1142 of title 10, United  
 11 States Code (as amended by section 2 of this Act).

12 (2) The term “Secretary concerned” has the  
 13 meaning given that term in section 101(a)(9) of title  
 14 10, United States Code.

15 (3) The term “administering Secretaries” has  
 16 the meaning given that term for purposes of section  
 17 1142 of title 10, United States Code (as so amend-  
 18 ed).

19 **SEC. 7. COMMAND MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH TRANSI-**  
 20 **TION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.**

21 (a) INCLUSION OF SUPPORT FOR PARTICIPATION IN  
 22 PROGRAMS IN COMMAND CLIMATE ASSESSMENTS.—Each  
 23 command climate assessment for the commander of a mili-  
 24 tary installation shall include an assessment of the extent  
 25 to which the commander and other command personnel

1 at the installation encourage and support the participation  
2 in covered transition assistance programs of members of  
3 the Armed Forces at the installation who are eligible for  
4 participation in such programs.

5 (b) TRAINING ON PROGRAMS.—The training provided  
6 a commander of a military installation in connection with  
7 the commencement of assignment to the installation shall  
8 include a module on the covered transition assistance pro-  
9 grams available for members of the Armed Forces as-  
10 signed to the installation.

11 (c) COVERED TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS  
12 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “covered transition  
13 assistance programs” means the following:

14 (1) The program of counseling, information,  
15 and services under section 1142 of title 10, United  
16 States Code, as amended by section 2 of this Act  
17 (commonly referred to as the “Transition Assistance  
18 Program”).

19 (2) The programs under section 1143(e) of title  
20 10, United States Code (commonly referred to as  
21 “Job Training, Employment Skills, Apprenticeships  
22 and Internships (JTEST–AI)” or “Skill Bridge”).

23 (3) Any other program of apprenticeship, on-  
24 the-job training, internship, or transition assistance

1 specified by the Secretary of Defense for purposes of  
 2 this section.

3 **SEC. 8. COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES**  
 4 **REPORT ON PARTICIPATION IN TRANSITION**  
 5 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AT SMALL AND RE-**  
 6 **MOTE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.**

7 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 18 months  
 8 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comp-  
 9 troller General of the United States shall submit to the  
 10 appropriate committees of Congress a report on a review,  
 11 conducted by the Comptroller General for purposes of the  
 12 report, on the participation in covered transition assist-  
 13 ance programs of members of the Armed Forces assigned  
 14 to small military installations and remote military installa-  
 15 tions in the United States.

16 (b) COVERED TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PRO-  
 17 GRAMS.—For purposes of this section, covered transition  
 18 assistance programs are the following:

- 19 (1) The Transition Assistance Program.
- 20 (2) The programs under section 1143(e) of title  
 21 10, United States Code (commonly referred to as  
 22 “Job Training, Employment Skills, Apprenticeships  
 23 and Internships (JTEST–AI)” or “Skill Bridge”).
- 24 (3) Any other program of apprenticeship, on-  
 25 the-job training, or internship offered at a small

1 military installation or remote installation that the  
2 Comptroller General considers appropriate for inclu-  
3 sion in the review under this section.

4 (c) SMALL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS; REMOTE  
5 MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.—For purposes of this section:

6 (1) A small military installation is an installa-  
7 tion at which are assigned not more than 10,000  
8 members of the Armed Forces.

9 (2) A remote military installation is an installa-  
10 tion that is located more than 50 miles from any  
11 city with a population of 50,000 people or more (as  
12 determined by the Office of Management and Budg-  
13 et).

14 (d) SCOPE OF REVIEW.—In conducting the review,  
15 the Comptroller General shall evaluate participation in  
16 covered transition assistance programs at a number of  
17 small military installations and remote military installa-  
18 tions that is sufficient to provide a complete under-  
19 standing of the participation in such programs of members  
20 of the Armed Forces at such installations throughout the  
21 United States.

22 (e) ELEMENTS.—The review under this section shall  
23 include the following:

24 (1) Rates of participation of members of the  
25 Armed Forces in covered transition assistance pro-

1       grams at small military installations and remote  
2       military installations in the United States.

3               (2) In the case of the Transition Assistance  
4       Program, the following:

5               (A) Compliance with the deadlines for par-  
6       ticipation provided for in subsection (d) of sec-  
7       tion 1142 of title 10, United States Code (as  
8       amended by section 2 of this Act).

9               (B) A comparison between rates of partici-  
10      pation in person and rates of participation on  
11      line.

12              (C) The average ratio of permanent, full-  
13      time equivalent program staff to participating  
14      members at small military installations and at  
15      remote military installations.

16              (D) The average number of program staff  
17      (including full-time equivalent staff and con-  
18      tractor staff) physically and permanently lo-  
19      cated on installation at small military installa-  
20      tions and at remote military installations.

21              (3) Such other matters with respect to partici-  
22      pation in covered transition assistance programs of  
23      members assigned to small military installations and  
24      remote military installations as the Comptroller Gen-  
25      eral considers appropriate.



1 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 (1) The term “appropriate committees of Con-  
3 gress” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Armed Services and  
5 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Sen-  
6 ate; and

7 (B) the Committee on Armed Services and  
8 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the  
9 House of Representatives.

10 (2) The term “Transition Assistance Program”  
11 means the program of counseling, information, and  
12 services under section 1142 of title 10, United  
13 States Code (as amended by section 2 of this Act).

14 **SEC. 9. EDUCATION OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES**  
15 **ON CAREER READINESS AND PROFESSIONAL**  
16 **DEVELOPMENT.**

17 (a) PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION REQUIRED.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 101 of title 10,  
19 United States Code, is amended by inserting after  
20 section 2015 the following new section:

21 **“§ 2015a. Education of members on career readiness**  
22 **and professional development**

23 **“(a) PROGRAM OF EDUCATION REQUIRED.—The**  
24 **Secretary of Defense shall carry out a program to provide**

1 education on career readiness and professional develop-  
2 ment to members of the armed forces.

3 “(b) ELEMENTS.—The program under this section  
4 shall provide members with the following:

5 “(1) Information on the transition plan as de-  
6 scribed in section 1142(g)(1)(A)(iii) of this title.

7 “(2) Information on opportunities available to  
8 members during military service for professional de-  
9 velopment and preparation for a career after mili-  
10 tary service, including—

11 “(A) programs of education, certification,  
12 training, and employment assistance (including  
13 programs under sections 1143(e), 2007, and  
14 2015 of this title); and

15 “(B) programs and resources available to  
16 members in communities in the vicinity of mili-  
17 tary installations.

18 “(3) Instruction on the use of online and other  
19 electronic mechanisms in order to access the edu-  
20 cation, training, and assistance and resources de-  
21 scribed in paragraph (2).

22 “(4) Such other information, instruction, and  
23 matters as the Secretary shall specify for purposes  
24 of this section.

1       “(c) TIMING OF PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—Sub-  
 2 ject to subsection (d), information, instruction, and other  
 3 matters under the program under this section shall be pro-  
 4 vided to members at the times as follows:

5           “(1) Upon arrival at first duty station.

6           “(2) Upon arrival at any subsequent duty sta-  
 7 tion.

8           “(3) Upon deployment.

9           “(4) Upon promotion.

10          “(5) Upon reenlistment.

11          “(6) At any other point in a military career  
 12 specified by the Secretary for purposes of this sec-  
 13 tion.

14       “(d) SINGLE PROVISION OF INFORMATION IN A YEAR  
 15 WITH MULTIPLE EVENTS.—A member who has received  
 16 information and instruction under the program under this  
 17 section in connection with an event specified in subsection  
 18 (c) in a year may elect not to undergo additional receipt  
 19 of information and instruction under the program in con-  
 20 nection with another such event in the year, unless such  
 21 other event is arrival at a new duty station.”.

22           (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
 23 tions at the beginning of chapter 101 of such title  
 24 is amended by inserting after the item relating to  
 25 section 2015 the following new item:

“2015a. Education of members on career readiness and professional development.”.

1 (b) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year  
3 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
4 retary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate  
5 committees of Congress a report on the program of  
6 education required by section 2015a of title 10,  
7 United States Code (as added by subsection (a)), in-  
8 cluding the following:

9 (A) A comprehensive description of the ac-  
10 tions taken to implement the program of edu-  
11 cation.

12 (B) A comprehensive description of the  
13 program of education.

14 (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS  
15 DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appro-  
16 priate committees of Congress” means—

17 (A) the Committee on Armed Services and  
18 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Sen-  
19 ate; and

20 (B) the Committee on Armed Services and  
21 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the  
22 House of Representatives.

1 **SEC. 10. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON TRANSITION ASSISTANCE**  
2 **PROGRAM AND OTHER TRANSITION-RELATED**  
3 **ASSISTANCE FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED**  
4 **FORCES.**

5 It is the sense of Congress—

6 (1) to acknowledge that the Armed Forces face  
7 significant and often competing pressures in car-  
8 rying out its essential and fundamental mission to  
9 defend the nation;

10 (2) that ensuring the effective transition of  
11 members of the Armed Forces from military life to  
12 civilian life represents an essential component of this  
13 mission, contributing directly to the long-term suc-  
14 cess of the United States military and its missions  
15 through its effects on—

16 (A) the long-term success and well-being of  
17 current and former members of the Armed  
18 Forces and their families;

19 (B) the perception of the Armed Forces by  
20 the American public; and

21 (C) the civilian-military partnership inte-  
22 gral to the United States military;

23 (3) that the program of counseling, informa-  
24 tion, and services under section 1142 of title 10,  
25 United States Code (as amended by section 2 of this  
26 Act), while effective in the worthy goal of reducing

1 the need for unemployment assistance among former  
2 members of the Armed Forces, should be designed  
3 and carried out for the holistic benefit, in both good  
4 and bad economic climates, of members of the  
5 Armed Forces participating in the program, and not  
6 simply as a metric or tool for employment;

7 (4) to support and commend efforts by the De-  
8 partment of Defense, the Department of Labor, and  
9 other agencies of the Federal Government in coordi-  
10 nating Federal and State efforts to assist members  
11 of the Armed Forces in identifying civilian equiva-  
12 lences for military occupational skills, but also to  
13 urge the Department of Defense to ensure that the  
14 Transition Assistance Program also provides mem-  
15 bers the tools and assistance for reinventing them-  
16 selves during the transition from military life to ci-  
17 vilian life, even when their new personal and profes-  
18 sional goals do not align with their military occupa-  
19 tions;

20 (5) to commend and further encourage efforts  
21 to incorporate metrics for compliance with Transi-  
22 tion Assistance Program requirements into leader-  
23 ship assessments and criteria for promotion of com-  
24 manding officers in the Armed Forces;

1           (6) to encourage the Secretary of Defense to as-  
2           sign accountability and responsibility for compliance  
3           with Transition Assistance Program requirements to  
4           the lowest level of command appropriate and to es-  
5           tablish uniform, Armed Forces-wide policy on the in-  
6           dividuals at unit level who are responsible for moni-  
7           toring compliance of members of the Armed Forces  
8           with such requirements;

9           (7) that the Secretary of Defense should seek to  
10          enhance collaboration and access to transition-re-  
11          lated services by members of the Armed Forces by  
12          seeking to co-locate Federal, State, and local offi-  
13          cials and contractors who administer the Transition  
14          Assistance Program and State and local officials and  
15          partner, nongovernmental entities associated with  
16          the Transition Assistance Program or who offer  
17          transition-related services in the same or proximate  
18          physical locations, when possible;

19          (8) that the Secretary of Defense and the Sec-  
20          retary of Labor should seek to minimize subjectivity  
21          in career readiness metrics under the Transition As-  
22          sistance Program in accordance with recommenda-  
23          tions of the Comptroller General of the United  
24          States; and

1           (9) to encourage the Department of Defense,  
2           the Department of Labor, the Department of Vet-  
3           erans Affairs and appropriate State agencies to work  
4           together, and with veterans service organizations, to  
5           establish in States or locales, as appropriate, local  
6           points of contact responsible for—

7                   (A) at the election of members of the  
8                   Armed Forces relocating to such State or locale  
9                   after military service, contacting the members  
10                  before separation from the Armed Forces;

11                  (B) providing members of the Armed  
12                  Force with employment, education, and other  
13                  appropriate information about the State or lo-  
14                  cale to assist in relocation; and

15                  (C) coordinating services for members of  
16                  the Armed Forces and the spouses who relocate  
17                  to the State or locale after military service.

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