

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5067

To transition military veterans into new careers in education, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 13, 2019

Mr. MEADOWS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, the Judiciary, and Veterans' Affairs, 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 transition military veterans into new careers in education,
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 “Troops Educating And
5 Managing Schools Act” or the “TEAMS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. VETERANS-TO-CLASSROOMS PROGRAM.**

2 (a) MODIFICATION AND REDESIGNATION OF PRO-
3 GRAM.—Section 1154 of title 10, United States Code, is
4 amended—

5 (1) in the section heading, by striking: “**em-**
6 **ployment as teachers: Troops-to-Teachers**
7 **Program**” and inserting “**employment in**
8 **schools: Veterans-to-Classrooms Pro-**
9 **gram**”;

10 (2) in subsection (a)—

11 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (2)
12 through (8) as paragraphs (4) through (10), re-
13 spectively;

14 (B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
15 following new paragraphs:

16 “(2) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
17 the Secretary of Defense.

18 “(3) COVERED POSITION.—

19 “(A) The term ‘covered position’ means a
20 full-time position in an eligible school as—

21 “(i) a teacher, including an elemen-
22 tary school teacher, a secondary school
23 teacher, and a career and technical edu-
24 cation teacher;

25 “(ii) a school leader;

26 “(iii) a school administrator;

1 “(iv) a nurse;

2 “(v) a principal;

3 “(vi) a counselor;

4 “(vii) a teaching aide;

5 “(viii) specialized instructional sup-
6 port personnel;

7 “(ix) a school resource officer; or

8 “(x) a contractor who performs the
9 functions of a position described in any of
10 clauses (i) through (viii).”;

11 (C) by amending paragraph (4), as so re-
12 designated, to read as follows:

13 “(4) ELIGIBLE SCHOOL.—The term ‘eligible
14 school’ means—

15 “(A) a public elementary school, including
16 a public elementary charter school;

17 “(B) a public secondary school, including a
18 public secondary charter school; or

19 “(C) a Bureau-funded school as defined in
20 section 1141(3) of the Education Amendments
21 of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 2021(3)).”;

22 (D) in paragraph (8), as so redesignated,
23 by striking “Troops-to-Teachers” and inserting
24 “Veterans-to-Classrooms”;

1 (E) by striking paragraph (9), as so redес-
2 igned, and inserting the following new para-
3 graph (9):

4 “(9) SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER.—The term
5 ‘school resource officer’ has the meaning given that
6 term in section 1709(4) of the Omnibus Crime Con-
7 trol and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C.
8 10389(4)).”; and

9 (F) in paragraph (10), as so redesignated,
10 by striking “and ‘State’ ” and inserting “‘spe-
11 cialized instructional support personnel’, and
12 ‘State’ ”;

13 (3) in subsection (b)—

14 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
15 by striking “Secretary of Defense may carry
16 out a Troops-to-Teachers Program” and insert-
17 ing “The Secretary of Defense, in consultation
18 with the Secretary of Education, may carry out
19 a Veterans-to-Classrooms Program”;

20 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “become
21 a teacher” and inserting “obtain a covered posi-
22 tion”; and

23 (C) by amending subparagraph (A) of
24 paragraph (2) to read as follows:

1 “(A) by local educational agencies or char-
2 ter schools in States with a shortage of individ-
3 uals to fill covered positions, as determined by
4 the Secretary of Education.”;

5 (4) in subsection (d)(4)(A)—

6 (A) in clause (i), by striking “or career or
7 technical subjects” and inserting “career and
8 technical education, or subjects relating to a
9 covered position”; and

10 (B) in clause (ii), by inserting “in a cov-
11 ered position or” after “seek employment”;

12 (5) in subsection (e)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

14 (i) in clause (i), by striking “become
15 a teacher” and inserting “obtain a covered
16 position”; and

17 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “as an
18 elementary school teacher” and all that fol-
19 lows through the period at the end and in-
20 serting “in a covered position for not less
21 than three school years in an eligible
22 school to begin the school year after the
23 member obtains the professional creden-
24 tials required for the position involved”;

(B) in paragraph (2)(E), by striking “as a teacher in an eligible elementary school or secondary school or as a career or technical teacher” and inserting “in a covered position”; and

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the first sentence, by striking “educational level, certification, or licensing” and inserting “educational level, certification, licensing, or other professional credentials”; and

(II) in the second sentence, by striking “\$5,000” and inserting “\$9,000 (except as adjusted by the Secretary in accordance with subparagraph (D))”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (i), by striking “as an elementary school teacher, secondary school teacher, or career or technical teacher” and inserting “in a covered position”; and

(II) in clause (ii), by striking “may not exceed \$5,000, unless the eligible school is a high-need school, in

1 which case the amount of the bonus
 2 may not exceed \$10,000” and insert-
 3 ing “may not exceed \$9,000 (except
 4 as adjusted by the Secretary in ac-
 5 cordance with subparagraph (D)), un-
 6 less the eligible school is a high-need
 7 school, in which case the amount of
 8 the bonus may not exceed \$18,000
 9 (except as so adjusted)”;

10 (iii) in subparagraph (C)—

11 (I) in clause (i), by striking
 12 “5,000” and inserting “20,000”;

13 (II) in clause (ii), by striking
 14 “3,000” and inserting “5,000”; and

15 (III) in clause (iv), by striking
 16 “\$10,000” and inserting “\$18,000
 17 (except as adjusted by the Secretary
 18 in accordance with subparagraph
 19 (D))”; and

20 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
 21 lowing:

22 “(D)(i) The Secretary may adjust the dollar
 23 amounts set forth in subparagraphs (A), (B)(ii), and
 24 (C)(iv) to reflect changes in the Consumer Price
 25 Index over the applicable period.

1 “(ii) In this subparagraph, the term ‘applicable
2 period’ means—

3 “(I) with respect to an initial adjustment
4 under clause (i), the period that has elapsed
5 since the date of the enactment of the TEAMS
6 Act; or

7 “(II) with respect to any adjustment after
8 the initial adjustment, the period that has
9 elapsed since the date of the most recent ad-
10 justment under clause (i).”;

11 (6) in subsection (f)(1)—

12 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

13 (i) by striking “become a teacher”
14 and inserting “obtain a covered position”;
15 and

16 (ii) by striking “as an elementary
17 school teacher, secondary school teacher, or
18 career or technical teacher” and insert “in
19 a covered position”; and

20 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “,
21 employment as an elementary school teacher,
22 secondary school teacher, or career or technical
23 teacher” and inserting “employment in a cov-
24 ered position”;

1 (7) in subsection (h)(2)(A), by striking “as ele-
2 mentary school teachers, secondary school teachers,
3 and career or technical teachers” and inserting “in
4 covered positions”; and

5 (8) by adding at the end the following new sub-
6 sections:

7 “(j) PARTNERSHIPS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter
9 into one or more partnerships with States, local edu-
10 cational agencies, or covered entities—

11 “(A) to help sustain and expand the reach
12 of the Veterans-to-Classrooms Program to pro-
13 mote careers in education among current and
14 future veterans under this section;

15 “(B) to provide information on the Pro-
16 gram in accordance with subsection (k)(2) in
17 widely available, user-friendly formats;

18 “(C) to help recruit more veterans, includ-
19 ing veterans who are retired law enforcement
20 officers, and service members who are within 6
21 months of transitioning out of the military into
22 new careers in education;

23 “(D) to promote careers in education
24 among current and future veterans by providing

1 veterans with information on other employment
2 transition programs, including—

3 “(i) the Veterans’ Employment &
4 Training Service and the National Vet-
5 erans’ Training Institute of the Depart-
6 ment of Labor;

7 “(ii) the transition assistance pro-
8 grams established under section 1144 of
9 this title;

10 “(iii) the SkillBridge and Career
11 Skills Programs of the Department of De-
12 fense;

13 “(iv) the AmeriCorps program carried
14 out under subtitle C of title I of the Na-
15 tional and Community Service Act of 1990
16 (42 U.S.C. 12571 et seq.); and

17 “(v) other transitional or educational
18 programs; and

19 “(E) to promote careers in education by
20 helping veterans learn about educational bene-
21 fits available to them, including Post-9/11 Edu-
22 cational Assistance, certification programs, and
23 applicable on-the-job training and apprentice-
24 ship programs, to help veterans get into an edu-
25 cational career field.

1 “(2) COVERED ENTITY DEFINED.—In this sub-
2 section, the term ‘covered entity’ means—

3 “(A) an entity qualifying as an exempt or-
4 ganization under section 501(c)(3) of the Inter-
5 nal Revenue Code of 1986; or

6 “(B) a veterans service organization recog-
7 nized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for
8 the representation of veterans under section
9 5902 of title 38.

10 “(k) PROGRAM INFORMATION.—

11 “(1) INFORMATION FROM THE SECRETARY.—
12 The Secretary shall make available, on a publicly ac-
13 cessible website of the Department of Defense, the
14 information described in paragraph (3).

15 “(2) INFORMATION FROM COVERED ENTI-
16 TIES.—Each State, local educational agency, and
17 covered entity that enters into a partnership with
18 the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall make avail-
19 able, on a publicly accessible website, the informa-
20 tion described in paragraph (3).

21 “(3) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—The informa-
22 tion described in this subparagraph is information
23 on the Veterans-to-Classrooms program authorized
24 under this section, including a description of the ap-

1 plication process for the program and the potential
2 benefits of participating in the program.

3 “(l) BIENNIAL REVIEW.—Not less frequently than
4 once every two years, the Secretary shall submit to Con-
5 gress a report on the Veterans-to-Classrooms Program. At
6 minimum, the report shall include a comparison of the
7 number of participants in the Program during the period
8 covered by the report relative to the number of stipends
9 authorized under the Program during such period.

10 “(m) PROCESS TO STREAMLINE APPLICATIONS.—
11 Not later than one year after the date of the enactment
12 of the TEAMS Act, the Secretary shall implement a proc-
13 ess to simplify the submission of applications under sub-
14 section (d)(2).”.

15 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
16 at the beginning of chapter 58 of such title is amended
17 by striking the item relating to section 1154 and inserting
18 the following new item:

“1154. Assistance to eligible members and former members to obtain employ-
ment in schools: Veterans-to-Classrooms Program.”.

19 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
20 subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

21 (d) REFERENCES.—Beginning on July 1, 2020, any
22 reference in Federal law (other than this Act), regulations,
23 guidance, instructions, or other documents of the Federal
24 Government to the Troops-to-Teachers Program shall be

1 deemed to be a reference to the Veterans-to-Classrooms
2 Program.

3 **SEC. 3. VETERANS EMPLOYABLE AS SCHOOL RESOURCE**
4 **OFFICERS.**

5 Section 1709(4) of the Omnibus Crime Control and
6 Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10389(4)) is amend-
7 ed by inserting after “a career law enforcement officer,
8 with sworn authority,” the following: “or a veteran (as
9 such term is defined in section 101(2) of title 38, United
10 States Code) who is hired by a State or local public agency
11 as a law enforcement officer for purposes of serving as
12 a school resource officer, who is”.

13 **SEC. 4. TASK FORCE ON EDUCATION CAREERS FOR VET-**
14 **ERANS.**

15 (a) TASK FORCE.—Not later than 120 days after the
16 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall con-
17 vene a task force to identify strategies that may be used
18 to assist veterans in obtaining employment in the field of
19 education.

20 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The task force convened
21 under subsection (a) shall—

22 (1) consult regularly with veterans service orga-
23 nizations in performing the duties of the task force;
24 and

1 (2) coordinate administrative and regulatory ac-
2 tivities and develop proposals to—

3 (A) identify State licensing and certifi-
4 cation requirements that are excessive and un-
5 necessarily burdensome for veterans seeking to
6 transition into careers in education;

7 (B) identify potential compensation struc-
8 tures for educational employment that include
9 salary credit for prior military and law enforce-
10 ment experience;

11 (C) recommend incentives to encourage
12 educational employers to hire veterans;

13 (D) assess the feasibility of establishing
14 dedicated military veteran liaison positions in
15 school districts;

16 (E) examine how funds made available for
17 the Veterans-to-Classrooms Program under sec-
18 tion 1154 of title 10, United States Code, may
19 be used to conduct outreach, provide certifi-
20 cation support, and help States establish out-
21 reach centers for veterans; and

22 (F) explore how partnerships entered by
23 the Secretary under subsection (j) of such sec-
24 tion may be used to promote careers in edu-
25 cation among veterans through collaboration

1 with relevant employment transition programs,
2 including the Transition Assistance Program,
3 the SkillBridge and Career Skills Programs of
4 the Department of Defense, and the
5 AmeriCorps program.

6 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—The task force shall consist of—

7 (1) the Secretary of Defense, or the designee of
8 the Secretary, who shall be the head of the task
9 force;

10 (2) the Secretary of Education, or the designee
11 of the Secretary;

12 (3) the Attorney General, or the designee of the
13 Attorney General;

14 (4) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or the
15 designee of the Secretary;

16 (5) the Secretary of Labor, or the designee of
17 the Secretary;

18 (6) the Director of the Office of Management
19 and Budget, or the designee of the Director;

20 (7) four representatives from a veterans service
21 organization, selected by the President;

22 (8) a representative of the Administrative Con-
23 ference of the United States; and

24 (9) representatives of State and local govern-
25 ments selected by the President, which may include

1 representatives of State boards of education and rel-
2 evant State licensing agencies.

3 (d) REPORT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
5 after the date on which the task force is convened
6 under subsection (a), the task force shall submit to
7 Congress a report that includes—

8 (A) a description of actions that may be
9 carried out by State and local governments to
10 reduce barriers that interfere with the ability of
11 veterans to transition into careers in education;
12 and

13 (B) recommendations for specific legisla-
14 tive and regulatory actions that may be carried
15 out to reduce such barriers.

16 (2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The report under
17 paragraph (1) shall be made available on a publicly
18 accessible website of the Department of Defense.

19 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the term “vet-
20 erans service organization” means any organization recog-
21 nized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the rep-
22 resentation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38,
23 United States Code.

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