

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3800

To provide for the enhancement of command climate assessments in the Armed Forces in order to improve the assessment of matters in connection with military family readiness, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 21, 2020

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To provide for the enhancement of command climate assessments in the Armed Forces in order to improve the assessment of matters in connection with military family readiness, 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 “Command Account-
5 ability for Military Family Readiness Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ENHANCEMENT OF COMMAND CLIMATE ASSESS-**
2 **MENTS FOR MILITARY FAMILY READINESS**
3 **PURPOSES.**

4 (a) SPECIFICATION OF COMMAND PERSONNEL SUB-
5 JECT TO ASSESSMENT FOR MILITARY FAMILY READINESS
6 RESPONSIBILITIES.—Not later than 90 days after the
7 date of the enactment of this Act, each Secretary of a mili-
8 tary department shall specify, for the Armed Forces under
9 the jurisdiction of such Secretary, the command personnel
10 of units and installations who shall be subject to a com-
11 mand climate assessment that takes into account the dis-
12 charge by such personnel of leadership responsibilities for
13 support of military family readiness among the personnel
14 of such units and installations.

15 (b) TRAINING AND GUIDANCE.—Commencing not
16 later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of
17 this Act, each Secretary of a military department shall
18 provide individuals serving as command personnel speci-
19 fied pursuant to subsection (a) in the Armed Forces under
20 the jurisdiction of such Secretary with training, guidance,
21 and other information to ensure that such command per-
22 sonnel are equipped to encourage and support military
23 family readiness among the personnel within the unit or
24 installation commanded by such personnel, including—

1 (1) guidance on the direction of military fami-
2 lies to family readiness resources available at such
3 unit or installation;

4 (2) guidance on the provision of information to
5 military families on programs for military family
6 readiness that are available military Department-
7 wide or Department of Defense-wide; and

8 (3) such other training, guidance, and other in-
9 formation as such Secretary considers appropriate.

10 (c) INCLUSION OF SUPPORT FOR MILITARY FAMILY

11 READINESS IN COMMAND CLIMATE ASSESSMENTS.—

12 Each command climate assessment with respect to a mili-
13 tary unit or installation that is conducted after the date
14 specified in subsection (e) shall include an assessment of
15 the extent to which the commander personnel at such unit
16 or installation specified pursuant to subsection (a) encour-
17 age and support military family readiness, including with
18 respect to the following factors that contribute to military
19 family readiness:

20 (1) Command and unit leadership efforts to
21 welcome new military families to the installation
22 concerned and ensure that such families are imme-
23 diately connected with any resources necessary to ac-
24 climatize to such installation.

1 (2) Command and unit leadership support for
2 military families experiencing challenges with mili-
3 tary family housing, including any military family
4 housing under the alternative authority for acquisi-
5 tion and improvement of military housing under sub-
6 chapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States
7 Code (commonly referred to as the “Military Hous-
8 ing Privatization Initiative”).

9 (3) Command and unit leadership efforts to in-
10 form military spouses of employment opportunities,
11 including access to any apprenticeship, on-the-job
12 training, internship, or educational opportunities of-
13 fered on or off the installation concerned, and pro-
14 vide follow-on support to members of the unit con-
15 cerned and their family members with respect to
16 such opportunities.

17 (4) Command and unit leadership support for
18 military families seeking child care opportunities, in-
19 cluding support for children with special needs and
20 support for new parents seeking support programs,
21 whether on or off the installation concerned.

22 (5) Command and unit leadership support for
23 military families during deployment and training ex-
24 ercises of the unit concerned.

1 (6) Command and unit leadership support for
2 military spouses during pregnancy and after child-
3 birth, particularly during instances when members of
4 the unit are deployed or away at training at the time
5 of birth.

6 (7) Command and unit leadership support for
7 military families preparing to transition into civilian
8 life, including facilitation of the completion of the
9 Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and access to
10 programs under section 1143(e) of title 10, United
11 States Code (commonly referred to as “Job Train-
12 ing, Employment Skills, Apprenticeships and Intern-
13 ships (JTEST-AI)” or “Skill Bridge”).

14 (8) Command unit leadership support for mili-
15 tary families seeking access to health care and men-
16 tal health resources.

17 (9) Command unit leadership support for mili-
18 tary families experiencing food insecurity and seek-
19 ing nutrition assistance program support.

20 (d) INCLUSION OF MILITARY SPOUSES IN CLIMATE
21 ASSESSMENTS.—Each command climate assessment with
22 respect to a military unit or installation that is conducted
23 after the date specified in subsection (e) shall include, as
24 relevant, surveys of spouses of members of the Armed
25 Forces of such unit or installation on matters of such com-

1 mand climate assessment that are relevant to military
2 spouses, military families, and military family readiness.

3 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The requirements in sub-
4 sections (c) and (d) shall apply with respect to command
5 climate assessments conducted on or after the date speci-
6 fied by the Secretary of Defense for purposes of this sec-
7 tion, which date may not be later than one year after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act.

9 (f) REPORTS.—

10 (1) REPORTS ON ACTIONS TAKEN TO COM-
11 PLY.—Not later than one year after the date of the
12 enactment of this Act, each Secretary of a military
13 department shall submit to the Committees on
14 Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Rep-
15 resentatives a report on the actions taken by such
16 Secretary to carry out the requirements of this sec-
17 tion, including a copy of the enhanced command cli-
18 mate assessments to be conducted for the Armed
19 Forces under the jurisdiction of such Secretary in-
20 corporating revisions necessary to comply with the
21 requirements in subsections (c) and (d).

22 (2) REPORTS ON FIRST ASSESSMENTS.—Not
23 later than 18 months after the date of the enact-
24 ment of this Act, each Secretary of a military de-
25 partment shall submit to the Committees on Armed

1 Services of the Senate and the House of Representa-
2 tives a report on the results of the command climate
3 assessments conducted for the Armed Forces under
4 the jurisdiction of such Secretary as of the date of
5 such report in compliance with the requirements in
6 subsections (c) and (d), including the data obtained
7 through such assessments and a summary evaluation
8 of such assessments and data.

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