

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5938

To amend the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a vacancy and recruitment database to facilitate the recruitment of certain members of the Armed Forces to satisfy the occupational needs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to establish and implement a training and certification program for intermediate care technicians in that Department, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 23, 2018

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a vacancy and recruitment database to facilitate the recruitment of certain members of the Armed Forces to satisfy the occupational needs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to establish and implement a training and certification program for intermediate care technicians in that Department, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Serving Vet-
3 erans Act of 2018”.

4 **SEC. 2. RECRUITMENT DATABASE.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 208 of the VA Choice
6 and Quality Employment Act (Public Law 115–46; 38
7 U.S.C. 701 note) is amended as follows:

8 (1) In subsection (a)—

9 (A) in the matter proceeding paragraph
10 (1), by striking “a single database” and insert-
11 ing “and maintain a single searchable database,
12 to be known as the ‘Department of Defense and
13 Veterans Affairs Recruitment Database’”;

14 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “; and”
15 and inserting a semicolon;

16 (C) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-
17 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

18 (D) by adding after paragraph (2) the fol-
19 lowing new paragraph:

20 “(3) with respect to each vacant position under
21 paragraph (1) and paragraph (2), the following in-
22 formation:

23 “(A) The military occupational specialty or
24 skill that corresponds to the position, as deter-
25 mined by the Secretary, in consultation with the
26 Secretary of Defense.

1 “(B) Each qualified member of the Armed
2 Forces who may be recruited to fill the position
3 before such qualified member of the Armed
4 Forces has been discharged and released from
5 active duty.”.

6 (2) By redesignating subsections (b), (c), and
7 (d) as subsections (g), (h), and (i), respectively.

8 (3) By inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
9 lowing new subsections:

10 “(b) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—Subject to sub-
11 section (c), the database established under subsection (a)
12 shall include, with respect to each qualified member of the
13 Armed Forces, the following information:

14 “(1) The name and contact information of the
15 qualified member of the Armed Forces.

16 “(2) The date on which the qualified member of
17 the Armed Forces is expected to be discharged and
18 released from active duty.

19 “(3) Each military occupational specialty cur-
20 rently or previously assigned to the qualified member
21 of the Armed Forces.

22 “(c) ELECTION NOT TO BE LISTED.—A qualified
23 member of the Armed Forces may elect in writing not to
24 be listed in the database.

1 “(d) AVAILABILITY.—Information in the database
2 shall be available to offices, officials, and employees of the
3 Department to the extent the Secretary determines appro-
4 priate.

5 “(e) EXPEDITED HIRING PROCEDURES.—The Sec-
6 retary shall implement direct hiring and appointment pro-
7 cedures for vacant positions listed in the database estab-
8 lished under subsection (a) for qualified members of the
9 Armed Forces who apply for such positions.

10 “(f) RELOCATION BONUS.—The Secretary may au-
11 thorize a relocation bonus, in an amount determined ap-
12 propriate by the Secretary and subject to the same limita-
13 tions as in the case of the authority provided under section
14 5753 of title 5, to any qualified member of the Armed
15 Forces who has accepted a position listed in the database
16 established under subsection (a).”.

17 (4) In subsection (h)(1), as redesignated in
18 paragraph (2), by striking “subsection (b)” and in-
19 serting “subsection (g)”.

20 (5) In subsection (i), as redesignated in para-
21 graph (2), by striking “of this Act” and inserting
22 “of the Veterans Serving Veterans Act of 2018, and
23 annually thereafter”.

1 (6) By adding after subsection (i), as redesign-
2 nated in paragraph (2), the following new sub-
3 section:

4 “(j) QUALIFIED MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES
5 DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘qualified member of
6 the Armed Forces’ means a member of the Armed
7 Forces—

8 “(1) described in section 1142(a) of title 10;
9 and

10 “(2) who has been determined by the Secretary,
11 in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, to
12 have a military occupational speciality that cor-
13 responds to a vacant position described in subsection
14 (a).”.

15 (b) DEADLINE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
16 shall establish the database under section 208 of the VA
17 Choice and Quality Employment Act (Public Law 115–
18 46; 38 U.S.C. 701 note), as amended by this section, not
19 later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of
20 this Act.

21 **SEC. 3. INTERMEDIATE CARE TECHNICIAN TRAINING PRO-**
22 **GRAM.**

23 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans
24 Affairs shall implement a program to train and certify cov-

1 ered veterans to work as intermediate care technicians in
2 the Department of Veterans Affairs.

3 (b) LOCATIONS.—

4 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
5 tablish centers at medical facilities of the Depart-
6 ment selected by the Secretary for the purposes of
7 carrying out the program under subsection (a).

8 (2) SELECTION OF MEDICAL FACILITIES.—In
9 selecting a medical facility of the Department under
10 this subsection to serve as a center, the Secretary
11 shall consider—

12 (A) the experience and success of the facil-
13 ity in training intermediate care technicians;
14 and

15 (B) the availability of resources of the fa-
16 cility to train intermediate care technicians.

17 (c) COVERED VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section,
18 the term “covered veteran” means a veteran who the Sec-
19 retary determines served as a basic health care technician
20 while serving in the Armed Forces.

21 **SEC. 4. NO AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22 No additional funds are authorized to be appro-
23 priated to carry out section 208 of the VA Choice and
24 Quality Employment Act (Public Law 115–46; 38 U.S.C.
25 701 note), as amended by section 2 of this Act, or to carry

1 out section 3 of this Act. Such sections shall be carried
2 out using amounts otherwise authorized to be appro-
3 priated for such purpose.

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