

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2151

To identify and refer members of the Armed Forces with a health care occupation who are separating from the Armed Forces for potential employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 23, 2021

Mr. LATTA (for himself and Miss RICE of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To identify and refer members of the Armed Forces with a health care occupation who are separating from the Armed Forces for potential employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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 “Hire Veteran Health
5 Heroes Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL OF MEMBERS OF**
2 **THE ARMED FORCES WITH A HEALTH CARE**
3 **OCCUPATION FOR POTENTIAL EMPLOYMENT**
4 **WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
5 **FAIRS DURING SEPARATION FROM THE**
6 **ARMED FORCES.**

7 (a) IDENTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
8 fairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall
9 identify members of the Armed Forces in a health care
10 occupation during the separation of such members from
11 the Armed Forces.

12 (b) REFERRAL OF INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—If a member of the Armed
14 Forces identified under subsection (a) expresses an
15 interest in working in a health care occupation with-
16 in the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Sec-
17 retary of Veterans Affairs shall refer the member to
18 a recruiter of the Department for consideration of
19 open positions in the specialty and geography of in-
20 terest of the member.

21 (2) TIMING.—Any referral of a member of the
22 Armed Forces conducted under paragraph (1) shall
23 be made not earlier than one year before the separa-
24 tion of the member from the Armed Forces.

25 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Any identification of
26 a member of the Armed Forces under subsection (a) or

1 referral of such member under subsection (b) shall not be
2 construed as a guarantee of employment of such member
3 with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

4 (d) REPORTS.—Not later than each of one year and
5 two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
6 Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the
7 Secretary of Defense, shall submit to the appropriate com-
8 mittees of Congress a report on the efficacy of the identi-
9 fication and referral of separating members of the Armed
10 Forces under this section.

11 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
13 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
14 gress” means—

15 (A) The Committee on Armed Services and
16 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Sen-
17 ate; and

18 (B) The Committee on Armed Services and
19 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the
20 House of Representatives.

21 (2) HEALTH CARE OCCUPATION.—The term
22 “health care occupation” means an occupation for
23 which an individual may be appointed for employ-

1 ment with the Department of Veterans Affairs under
2 section 7401 of title 38, United States Code.

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