

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6211

To amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct annual surveys on military community belonging and support in military communities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 9, 2021

Mr. BROWN of Maryland introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct annual surveys on military community belonging and support in military communities, 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 “Strengthening Rela-
5 tions in Military Communities Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROGRAM TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN MEM-**
2 **BERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND MILITARY**
3 **COMMUNITIES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 23 of title 10, United
5 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 481a
6 the following new section:

7 **“§ 481b. Program to improve relations between mem-**
8 **bers of the Armed Forces and military**
9 **communities**

10 “(a) SURVEY.—(1) The Secretary of Defense, acting
11 through the Office of Diversity Management and Equal
12 Opportunity, shall conduct a biennial survey of covered in-
13 dividuals regarding relations between covered individuals
14 and covered communities.

15 “(2) The survey shall be conducted to solicit informa-
16 tion from covered individuals regarding the following:

17 “(A) Rank, age, racial, ethnic, and gender de-
18 mographics of the covered individuals.

19 “(B) Relationships of covered individuals with
20 the covered community, including support services
21 and acceptance of the military community.

22 “(C) Availability of housing, employment oppor-
23 tunities for military spouses, health care, education,
24 and other relevant issues.

1 “(D) Initiatives of local government and com-
2 munity organizations in addressing diversity, equity,
3 and inclusion.

4 “(E) Physical safety while in a covered commu-
5 nity but outside the military installation located in
6 such covered community.

7 “(F) Any other matters designated by the Sec-
8 retary of Defense.

9 “(b) ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES.—Additional activities
10 under this section may include the following:

11 “(1) Facilitating local listening sessions and in-
12 formation exchanges.

13 “(2) Developing educational campaigns.

14 “(3) Supplementing existing local and national
15 defense community programs.

16 “(4) Sharing best practices and activities.

17 “(c) COORDINATION.—To support activities under
18 this section, the Secretary of Defense may coordinate with
19 local governments or not-for-profit organizations that rep-
20 resent covered individuals.

21 “(d) REPORT.—(1) Not later than September 30 of
22 every other year, the Secretary of Defense shall submit
23 to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and
24 the House of Representatives a report on the most recent
25 survey under subsection (a).

1 “(2) Each report under paragraph (1) shall include—

2 “(A) with respect to each covered community—

3 “(i) the results of the survey required
4 under subsection (b); and

5 “(ii) activities conducted to address racial
6 inequity in the community;

7 “(B) aggregate results of the survey required
8 under subsection (b); and

9 “(C) best practices for creating positive rela-
10 tionships between covered individuals and covered
11 communities.

12 “(3) The Secretary of Defense shall—

13 “(A) designate ten geographically diverse mili-
14 tary installations for review in each survey;

15 “(B) make the results of each report under
16 paragraph (1) available on a publicly accessible
17 website of the Department of Defense; and

18 “(C) ensure that any data included with the re-
19 port is made available in a machine-readable format
20 that is downloadable, searchable, and sortable.

21 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 “(1) The term ‘covered community’ means a
23 military installation designated under subsection
24 (e)(3)(A) and the area within 10 miles of such mili-
25 tary installation.

1 “(2) The term ‘covered individual’ means any of
2 the following who lives in a covered community or
3 works on a military installation in a covered commu-
4 nity:

5 “(A) A member of the Armed Forces.

6 “(B) A family member of an individual de-
7 scribed in subparagraph (A) or (B).

8 “(3) The term ‘military installation’ has the
9 meaning given such term in section 2801 of this
10 title.”.

11 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
12 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
13 after the item relating to section 481a the following new
14 item:

 “481b. Program to improve relations between members of the Armed Forces
 and military communities.”.

15 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of Defense
16 shall carry out the first survey under section 481b(a) of
17 such title, as added by subsection (a), not later than one
18 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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