

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7025

To amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the Transition Assistance Program for members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 2, 2018

Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. JONES, Mr. KIND, and Mr. CURBELO of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on 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 amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the Transition Assistance Program for members of the Armed Forces, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Improving Preparation and Resources for Occupational,
6 Vocational, and Educational Transition for Servicemem-
7 bers Act” or “IMPROVE Transition for Servicemembers
8 Act”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
 2 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Recodification, consolidation, and improvement of certain transition-related counseling and assistance authorities.
- Sec. 3. Connections of members retiring or separating from the Armed Forces with community-based organizations and related entities.
- Sec. 4. Personnel matters in connection with Transition Assistance Program.
- Sec. 5. Systems for tracking participation in Transition Assistance Program and related programs.
- Sec. 6. Information on members of the Armed Forces participating in preseparation counseling and surveys on member experiences with Transition Assistance Program counseling and services and in transition to civilian life.
- Sec. 7. Command matters in connection with transition assistance programs.
- Sec. 8. Comptroller General of the United States report on participation in transition assistance programs at small and remote military installations.
- Sec. 9. Education of members of the Armed Forces on career readiness and professional development.
- Sec. 10. Sense of Congress on Transition Assistance Program and other transition-related assistance for members of the Armed Forces.

3 **SEC. 2. RECODIFICATION, CONSOLIDATION, AND IMPROVE-**
 4 **MENT OF CERTAIN TRANSITION-RELATED**
 5 **COUNSELING AND ASSISTANCE AUTHORI-**
 6 **TIES.**

7 (a) RECODIFICATION, CONSOLIDATION, AND IM-
 8 PROVEMENT OF AUTHORITIES.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 58 of title 10,
 10 United States Code, is amended by striking sections
 11 1142 and 1144 and inserting after section 1141 the
 12 following new section 1142:

13 **“§ 1142. Transition-related counseling and services:**
 14 **Transition Assistance Program**

15 **“(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—**

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense
2 and the Secretary of Homeland Security with re-
3 spect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating
4 as a service in the Navy shall, in cooperation with
5 the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Vet-
6 erans Affairs, carry out a program to furnish indi-
7 vidual counseling, information and services described
8 in paragraph (2) to members of the armed forces
9 under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense or
10 the Secretary of Homeland Security, as applicable,
11 whose retirement or separation from active duty is
12 anticipated as of a specific date, and to the spouses
13 of such members. The program shall be known as
14 the ‘Transition Assistance Program’.

15 “(2) COUNSELING, INFORMATION, AND SERV-
16 ICES.—The counseling, information, and services
17 furnished under the program (in this section re-
18 ferred to as ‘covered counseling, information, and
19 services’) shall include the following in connection
20 with the transition from military life to civilian life:

21 “(A) Preseparation counseling, including
22 as described in subsection (f).

23 “(B) Training, employment assistance, and
24 other related information and services, includ-
25 ing as described in subsection (g).

1 “(C) Such other counseling, information,
2 and services as the Secretaries referred to in
3 paragraph (1) consider appropriate to assist
4 members of the armed forces, and their
5 spouses, in the transition from military life to
6 civilian life.

7 “(3) AGREEMENT.—The Secretaries referred to
8 in paragraph (1) (in this section referred to as the
9 ‘administering Secretaries’) shall enter into a de-
10 tailed agreement to carry out this section.

11 “(4) CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES.—In carrying
12 out the program, the administering Secretaries shall
13 do the following:

14 “(A) Work together to develop and revise
15 necessary training documents, resources, and
16 curriculum for the purposes of the program.

17 “(B) In providing information in connec-
18 tion with preseparation counseling under sub-
19 section (f)(4), use experience obtained from im-
20 plementation of the pilot program under section
21 408 of Public Law 101–237.

22 “(C) Work with military and veterans’
23 service organizations and other appropriate or-
24 ganizations to promote and publicize job fairs

1 for members furnished covered counseling, in-
2 formation, and services under the program.

3 “(D) In the case of members furnished
4 covered counseling, information, and services
5 under the program who have a spouse—

6 “(i) include the spouse in such coun-
7 seling, information, and services, at the
8 election of the member and the spouse; and

9 “(ii) provide job placement counseling
10 for the spouse in connection with the tran-
11 sition of the member from military life to
12 civilian life.

13 “(b) PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS REQUIRED.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
15 graph (2), the Secretary of Defense and the Sec-
16 retary of Homeland Security shall require the par-
17 ticipation in the program under this section of all
18 members eligible for assistance under the program.

19 “(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary of Defense and
20 the Secretary of Homeland Security may, under reg-
21 ulations such Secretaries shall prescribe, waive the
22 participation requirement in paragraph (1) with re-
23 spect to such groups or classifications of members as
24 such Secretaries determine, after consultation with
25 the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Vet-

1 erans Affairs, for whom participation is not and
2 would not be of assistance based on the articulable
3 justification of such Secretaries that there is ex-
4 traordinarily compelling reason to believe such mem-
5 bers are unlikely to face major readjustment, health
6 care, employment, or other challenges associated
7 with transition to civilian life. In issuing any such
8 waiver, the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of
9 Homeland Security, as applicable, shall specify, in
10 writing, the grounds for such waiver. Each Secretary
11 shall maintain a record of all such waivers issued by
12 such Secretary.

13 “(c) SERVICE REQUIRED BEFORE FURNISHING OF
14 PRESEPARATION COUNSELING.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
16 the Secretary concerned shall not furnish presepara-
17 tion counseling under the program under this section
18 to a member who is being discharged or released be-
19 fore the completion of the first 180 continuous days
20 of active duty of the member.

21 “(2) RETIREMENT OR SEPARATION FOR DIS-
22 ABILITY.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply in the case
23 of a member who is being retired or separated for
24 disability.

1 “(3) DETERMINATION OF DURATION OF SERV-
2 ICE.—For purposes of calculating the days of active
3 duty of a member under paragraph (1), the Sec-
4 retary concerned shall exclude any day as follows:

5 “(A) Any day on which the member per-
6 formed full-time training duty or annual train-
7 ing duty.

8 “(B) Any day on which the member at-
9 tended, while in the active military service, a
10 school designated as a service school by law or
11 by the Secretary concerned.

12 “(d) COMMENCEMENT AND COMPLETION.—

13 “(1) COMMENCEMENT.—Except as provided in
14 paragraph (4), the furnishing of covered counseling,
15 information, and services to a member under the
16 program under this section shall commence not later
17 than one year before the date of anticipated retire-
18 ment or separation of the member from the armed
19 forces.

20 “(2) COMPLETION.—Except as provided in
21 paragraph (4), the furnishing of covered counseling,
22 information, and services to a member under the
23 program shall be completed as follows:

1 “(A) In the case of a member retiring from
2 the armed forces, by not later than 120 days
3 before the date of retirement.

4 “(B) In the case of a member otherwise
5 separating from the armed forces, by not later
6 than 90 days before the date of separation.

7 “(3) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sub-
8 section may be construed to prohibit the furnishing
9 of covered counseling, information, and services to a
10 member under the program, or other counseling, as-
11 sistance, and information and services similar to cov-
12 ered counseling, information, and services, at times
13 other than the times provided for by paragraphs (1)
14 and (2).

15 “(4) UNANTICIPATED RETIREMENT OR SEPARA-
16 TION IN CONNECTION WITH PRESEPARATION COUN-
17 SELING.—In the event that a retirement or other
18 separation from the armed forces is unanticipated
19 until there are 90 or fewer days before the antici-
20 pated retirement or separation date, or in the event
21 a member of a reserve component is being demobi-
22 lized under circumstances in which (as determined
23 by the Secretary concerned) operational require-
24 ments make the 120-day or 90-day requirement
25 under paragraph (2) unfeasible, preseparation coun-

1 seling under the program shall begin as soon as pos-
2 sible within the remaining period of service.

3 “(e) FURNISHING ON IN-PERSON BASIS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
5 graph (2), covered counseling, information, and serv-
6 ices under the program under this section shall be
7 furnished to a member on an in-person basis.

8 “(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary of Defense and
9 the Secretary of Homeland Security, as applicable,
10 may waive the requirement in paragraph (1) with re-
11 spect to a particular member if such Secretary de-
12 termines, using a system established by such Sec-
13 retary for purposes of this paragraph, that the fur-
14 nishing of covered counseling, information, and serv-
15 ices on an online, other electronic, or other basis,
16 rather than on an in-person basis, is necessary to
17 avoid extraordinarily significant impediments to im-
18 mediate mission needs. In issuing any such waiver,
19 such Secretary shall specify, in writing, the grounds
20 for such waiver.

21 “(f) TOPICS COVERED BY PRESEPARATION COUN-
22 SELING.—The preseparation counseling furnished a mem-
23 ber under the program under this section shall include the
24 following:

1 “(1) Financial planning assistance, including
2 information on budgeting, saving, credit, loans, and
3 taxes.

4 “(2) An explanation of the procedures for and
5 advantages of affiliating with the Selected Reserve.

6 “(3) Information on programs and benefits re-
7 lated to veteran status, including—

8 “(A) a description of health care and other
9 benefits to which the member may be entitled
10 under the laws administered by the Secretary of
11 Veterans Affairs, and information regarding the
12 means by which the member can receive addi-
13 tional counseling regarding the member’s actual
14 entitlement to such benefits and apply for such
15 benefits;

16 “(B) educational assistance benefits to
17 which the member is entitled under the Mont-
18 gomery GI Bill and other educational assistance
19 programs because of the member’s service in
20 the armed forces;

21 “(C) a description of the compensation and
22 vocational rehabilitation benefits to which the
23 member may be entitled under laws adminis-
24 tered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, if

1 the member is being medically separated or is
2 being retired under chapter 61 of this title;

3 “(D) information on home loan services
4 and housing assistance benefits available under
5 the laws administered by the Secretary of Vet-
6 erans Affairs and counseling on responsible bor-
7 rowing practices;

8 “(E) a description, developed in consulta-
9 tion with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, of
10 the assistance and support services for family
11 caregivers of eligible veterans under the pro-
12 gram conducted by the Secretary of Veterans
13 Affairs pursuant to section 1720G of title 38,
14 including the veterans covered by the program,
15 the caregivers eligible for assistance and sup-
16 port through the program, and the assistance
17 and support available through the program; and

18 “(F) information, including appropriate
19 training, on eligibility for enrollment and
20 disenrollment in the Survivor Benefit Plan
21 under chapter 73 of this title and other survivor
22 benefits available under the laws administered
23 by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of
24 Veterans Affairs.

1 “(4) Information on civilian employment, occu-
2 pational requirements, and related assistance, in-
3 cluding—

4 “(A) labor market information;

5 “(B) instruction in résumé preparation;

6 “(C) job analysis techniques, job search
7 techniques, job interview techniques, and salary
8 negotiation techniques;

9 “(D) certification and licensure require-
10 ments that are applicable to civilian occupa-
11 tions, including State-submitted and approved
12 lists of military training and skills that satisfy
13 occupational certifications and licenses;

14 “(E) civilian occupations that correspond
15 to military occupational specialties;

16 “(F) information on the requirements
17 under section 1143(a) of this title for the De-
18 partment of Defense and the Department of
19 Homeland Security to provide proper certifi-
20 cation or verification of job skills and experi-
21 ence acquired while on active duty that may
22 have application to employment in the civilian
23 sector for use in seeking civilian employment
24 and in obtaining job search skills;

1 “(G) government and private-sector pro-
2 grams for job search and job placement assist-
3 ance, including the public and community serv-
4 ice jobs program carried out under section
5 1143a of this title, and information regarding
6 the placement programs established under sec-
7 tions 1152 and 1153 of this title and the
8 Troops-to-Teachers Program;

9 “(H) priority of service for veterans in the
10 receipt of employment, training, and placement
11 services provided under qualified job training
12 programs of the Department of Labor;

13 “(I) veterans small business ownership and
14 entrepreneurship programs of the Small Busi-
15 ness Administration and assistance to members
16 in their efforts to obtain loans and grants from
17 the Small Business Administration and other
18 Federal, State, and local agencies;

19 “(J) employment and reemployment rights
20 and obligations under chapter 43 of title 38;

21 “(K) veterans preference in Federal em-
22 ployment and Federal procurement opportuni-
23 ties;

24 “(L) disability-related employment and
25 education protections; and

1 “(M) career and employment opportunities
2 available to members with transportation secu-
3 rity cards issued under section 70105 of title
4 46.

5 “(5) Information related to transition and relo-
6 cation, including—

7 “(A) information on the geographic areas
8 in which such members will relocate after sepa-
9 ration from the armed forces, including, to the
10 degree possible, information about employment
11 opportunities, the labor market, and the cost of
12 living in those areas (including, to the extent
13 practicable, the cost and availability of housing,
14 child care, education, and medical and dental
15 care);

16 “(B) Federal, State, and local programs,
17 and programs of military and veterans’ service
18 organizations, that may be of assistance to such
19 members after separation from the armed
20 forces;

21 “(C) counseling (for the member and de-
22 pendents) on the effect of career change on in-
23 dividuals and their families and the availability
24 to the member and dependents of suicide pre-

1 vention resources following separation from the
2 armed forces;

3 “(D) the availability of mental health serv-
4 ices and the treatment of post-traumatic stress
5 disorder, anxiety disorders, depression, suicidal
6 ideations, or other mental health conditions as-
7 sociated with service in the armed forces and
8 information concerning the availability of treat-
9 ment options and resources to address sub-
10 stance abuse, including alcohol, prescription
11 drug, and opioid abuse;

12 “(E) the availability of medical and dental
13 coverage following separation from active duty,
14 including the opportunity to elect into the con-
15 version health policy provided under section
16 1145 of this title; and

17 “(F) information on the required deduc-
18 tion, pursuant to subsection (h) of section
19 1175a of this title, from disability compensation
20 paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of
21 amounts equal to any voluntary separation pay
22 received by the member under such section.

23 “(g) SPECIFIC COMPONENTS OF COVERED COUN-
24 SELING, INFORMATION, AND SERVICES.—The covered
25 counseling, information, and services furnished to a mem-

1 ber under the program under this section shall include the
2 following:

3 “(1) PRELIMINARY MEETING.—Upon the com-
4 mencement of the furnishing of covered counseling,
5 information, and services, a member shall meet with
6 a counselor assigned to the member for purposes of
7 the program. During the meeting, the following shall
8 occur:

9 “(A) The counselor shall furnish the mem-
10 ber the following:

11 “(i) A military-civilian equivalency re-
12 view designed to determine what licensing,
13 credentialing, and other requirements for
14 occupations in the civilian sector align with
15 or would be satisfied by the military occu-
16 pational specialty (MOS) and other mili-
17 tary skills and experience of the member.

18 “(ii) An individualized, personality-
19 based skills and career assessment de-
20 signed to determine the personal strengths
21 and career interests of the member.

22 “(iii) Assistance in developing an indi-
23 vidual transition plan for the member to
24 attempt to achieve the educational, train-
25 ing, employment, and financial objectives

1 of the member and, if the member has a
2 spouse, the spouse of the member.

3 “(iv) Information on organizations,
4 entities, and resources located in the com-
5 munity in which the member will reside
6 after separation, retirement, or discharge
7 described under subsection (f)(5)(B) and
8 section 3(a) of the Improving Presepara-
9 tion and Resources for Occupational, Voca-
10 tional, and Educational Transition for Ser-
11 vicemembers Act.

12 “(v) An introduction to additional
13 matters to be furnished under subsection
14 (f), and to such other matters as the ad-
15 ministering Secretaries consider appro-
16 priate.

17 “(B) The member may elect one or both of
18 the following:

19 “(i) To have the Secretary concerned
20 (in consultation with the Secretary of Vet-
21 erans Affairs and the Secretary of Labor)
22 provide the contact information of the
23 member to the organizations, entities, and
24 resources described in subparagraph
25 (A)(iv).

1 “(ii) To have the Secretary of Defense
2 and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
3 transmit information on the member from
4 Department of Defense Form DD–214 to
5 State veterans agencies for transmittal to
6 community-based organizations and related
7 entities that provide or connect veterans to
8 benefits and services in accordance with
9 section 3 of the Improving Preseparation
10 and Resources for Occupational, Vocation-
11 al, and Educational Transition for Service-
12 members Act.

13 “(2) PRESEPARATION COUNSELING.—A course
14 of instruction, of at least one day, on such topics
15 specified in subsection (f) as the administering Sec-
16 retaries consider appropriate.

17 “(3) INSTRUCTION ON SPECIFIC POST-SERVICE
18 PATHWAYS.—A course of instruction, of not less
19 than two consecutive days, on one of the following
20 matters, as elected by the member:

21 “(A) Employment.

22 “(B) Higher education.

23 “(C) Entrepreneurship.

24 “(D) Career and technical training.

1 “(E) Such other matters as the admin-
2 istering Secretaries consider appropriate.

3 “(4) INSTRUCTION ON PROFESSIONAL DEVEL-
4 OPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.—A course
5 of instruction, of at least one day, on general profes-
6 sional development and employment assistance, in-
7 cluding résumé writing, interviewing skills, and such
8 other matters as the administering Secretaries con-
9 sider appropriate.

10 “(5) INSTRUCTION ON VETERANS BENEFITS.—
11 A course of instruction, of at least one day, on the
12 benefits and services available under the law admin-
13 istered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, includ-
14 ing the manner of registration for receipt of such
15 benefits and services and such other matters in con-
16 nection with such benefits and services as the Sec-
17 retary of Veterans Affairs considers appropriate.

18 “(6) ORDER OF COUNSELING AND INSTRUC-
19 TION.—A member shall receive the counseling and
20 instruction required by paragraphs (2) and (3) be-
21 fore any other instruction required by this sub-
22 section. A member may undertake any other instruc-
23 tion required by this subsection at a pace and order
24 satisfactory to the member, subject to the require-

1 ment to complete all such instruction by the deadline
2 provided in subsection (d)(2).

3 “(7) FREQUENCY OF TRAINING.—The Sec-
4 retary concerned shall ensure, to the extent prac-
5 ticable and subject to urgent mission needs, that
6 members who have commenced receipt of counseling
7 and instruction under the program by the com-
8 mencement date provided in subsection (d)(1) and
9 seek to receive such counseling or instruction again,
10 or receive additional such counseling or instruction,
11 under this subsection before retirement or separa-
12 tion, are able to do so.

13 “(h) RECORD OF RECEIPT OF COVERED COUN-
14 SELING, INFORMATION, AND SERVICES IN SERVICE
15 RECORDS.—A notation on the receipt of counseling and
16 instruction on each matter specified in subsections (f) and
17 (g) in connection with the furnishing of covered coun-
18 seling, information, and services under the program under
19 this section, signed by the member concerned, shall be
20 placed in the service record of each member receiving such
21 counseling and instruction.

22 “(i) USE OF PERSONNEL AND ORGANIZATIONS.—In
23 carrying out the program under this section, the admin-
24 istering Secretaries may—

1 “(1) provide for the use of disabled veterans
2 outreach program specialists, local veterans’ employ-
3 ment representatives, and other employment service
4 personnel funded by the Department of Labor to the
5 extent that the Secretary of Labor determines that
6 such use will not significantly interfere with the pro-
7 vision of services or other benefits to eligible vet-
8 erans and other eligible recipients of such services or
9 benefits;

10 “(2) use military and civilian personnel of the
11 Department of Defense and the Department of
12 Homeland Security;

13 “(3) use personnel of the Veterans Benefits Ad-
14 ministration of the Department of Veterans Affairs
15 and other appropriate personnel of that Department;

16 “(4) use representatives of military and vet-
17 erans’ service organizations;

18 “(5) enter into contracts with public entities;
19 and

20 “(6) enter into contracts with private entities,
21 particularly with qualified private entities that have
22 experience with instructing members of the armed
23 forces eligible for covered counseling, information,
24 and services under the program on—

1 “(A) private sector culture, résumé writ-
2 ing, career networking, and training on job
3 search technologies;

4 “(B) academic readiness and educational
5 opportunities; and

6 “(C) such other matters in connection with
7 the program as the administering Secretaries
8 consider appropriate.

9 “(j) REPORTS AND NOTICE IN CONNECTION WITH
10 PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS.—

11 “(1) INFORMATION WITHIN EXECUTIVE
12 BRANCH.—The Secretary of Defense and the Sec-
13 retary of Homeland Security shall each ensure that
14 information on participation in the program under
15 this section by members under the jurisdiction of
16 such Secretary (including timeliness of receipt of
17 covered counseling, information, and services, rates
18 of participation on an in-person basis and an online
19 or other electronic basis, and number of waivers (if
20 any) issued pursuant to subsection (e)(2)) is made
21 available by electronic means to the following:

22 “(A) Commanders at all levels of command
23 at the installations concerned.

24 “(B) All counselors and managers of coun-
25 seling under the program.

1 “(C) The Secretary of Labor, the Sec-
2 retary of Veterans Affairs, and the heads of any
3 other departments and agencies of the Federal
4 Government involved in the furnishing of coun-
5 seling and other assistance under the program.

6 “(2) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of De-
8 fense and the Secretary of Homeland Security
9 shall each submit to Congress each year a re-
10 port on the furnishing of covered counseling, in-
11 formation, and services under the program to
12 members of the armed forces under the juris-
13 diction of such Secretary during the preceding
14 year. Each report shall include, for the year
15 covered by such report, the following:

16 “(i) The number of members eligible
17 for covered counseling, information, and
18 services under the program.

19 “(ii) The number of members fur-
20 nished covered counseling, information,
21 and services under the program.

22 “(iii) An assessment of the extent to
23 which such counseling, information, and
24 services were furnished within the times

1 provided for by paragraphs (1) and (2) of
2 subsection (d).

3 “(iv) Rates of participation on an in-
4 person basis and an online or other elec-
5 tronic basis, and number of waivers (if
6 any) issued pursuant to subsection (e)(2).

7 “(v) The number of participants in
8 the programs under subsection (e) of sec-
9 tion 1143 of this title (commonly referred
10 to as ‘Job Training, Employment Skills,
11 Apprenticeships and Internships (JTEST-
12 AI)’ or ‘Skill Bridge’).

13 “(vi) Such other information as is re-
14 quired to provide Congress with a com-
15 prehensive description of participation of
16 the members in the program.

17 “(B) PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION.—

18 Information in each report under subparagraph
19 (A) shall be broken out—

20 “(i) by armed force, and by compo-
21 nent of the armed forces;

22 “(ii) by basis of separation from the
23 armed forces (whether retirement or other
24 separation and whether voluntary or invol-
25 untary); and

1 “(iii) by characterization of discharge
2 from the armed forces.

3 “(k) TRANSMITTAL OF MEDICAL INFORMATION TO
4 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—In the case of a
5 member being medically separated or being retired under
6 chapter 61 of this title, the Secretary concerned shall en-
7 sure (subject to the consent of the member) that a copy
8 of the member’s service medical record (including any re-
9 sults of a Physical Evaluation Board) is transmitted to
10 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs within 60 days of the
11 separation or retirement.”.

12 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of sec-
13 tions at the beginning of chapter 58 of such title is
14 amended—

15 (A) by striking the item relating to section
16 1142 and inserting the following new item:

“1142. Transition-related counseling and services: Transition Assistance Pro-
gram.”;

17 and

18 (B) by striking the item relating to section
19 1144.

20 (b) DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF REVISED
21 PROGRAM.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The administering Secre-
23 taries shall take appropriate actions to carry out any
24 modifications to the Transition Assistance Program

1 under section 1142 of title 10, United States Code,
2 that are required by reason of the amendments
3 made by subsection (a) by not later than the date
4 that is one year after the date of the enactment of
5 this Act in order to ensure that the furnishing of
6 covered counseling, information, and services to
7 members of the Armed Forces under the Program is
8 fully implemented as of such date.

9 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after
10 the date of the enactment of this Act, the admin-
11 istering Secretaries shall submit to the appropriate
12 committees of Congress a report on specific actions
13 to be taken to implement any modifications to the
14 Transition Assistance Program under section 1142
15 of title 10, United States Code, that are required by
16 reason of the amendments made by subsection (a).

17 (3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

18 (A) The term “appropriate committees of
19 Congress” means—

20 (i) the Committee on Armed Services
21 and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of
22 the Senate; and

23 (ii) the Committee on Armed Services
24 and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of
25 the House of Representatives.

1 (B) The terms “administering Secretaries”
2 and “covered counseling, information, and serv-
3 ices” have the meanings given such terms for
4 purposes of section 1142 of title 10, United
5 States Code, as amended by subsection (a).

6 **SEC. 3. CONNECTIONS OF MEMBERS RETIRING OR SEPA-**
7 **RATING FROM THE ARMED FORCES WITH**
8 **COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND**
9 **RELATED ENTITIES.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense and the
11 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly seek to enter
12 into memoranda of understanding (MOUs) or other agree-
13 ments with State veterans agencies under which informa-
14 tion from Department of Defense Form DD–214 on indi-
15 viduals undergoing retirement, discharge, or release from
16 the Armed Forces is transmitted through one or more
17 State veterans agencies, as elected by such individuals, to
18 community-based organizations and related entities that
19 provide or connect veterans to benefits or services as fol-
20 lows:

- 21 (1) Assistance in preparation of résumés.
- 22 (2) Training for employment interviews.
- 23 (3) Employment recruitment training.
- 24 (4) Other services leading directly to a success-
25 ful transition from military life to civilian life.

1 (5) Healthcare, including care for mental
2 health.

3 (6) Transportation or transportation-related
4 services.

5 (7) Housing.

6 (8) Such other benefits or services as the Secre-
7 taries jointly consider appropriate for purposes of
8 this section.

9 (b) INFORMATION TRANSMITTED.—The information
10 transmitted on individuals as described in subsection (a)
11 shall be such information on Form DD–214 as the Secre-
12 taries jointly consider appropriate to facilitate community-
13 based organizations and related entities in providing or
14 connecting such individuals to benefits and services as de-
15 scribed in subsection (a).

16 (c) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—Information on an
17 individual may be transmitted to and through a State vet-
18 erans agency as described in subsection (a) only with the
19 consent of the individual. In giving such consent, an indi-
20 vidual shall specify the following:

21 (1) The State veterans agency or agencies elect-
22 ed by the individual to transmit such information as
23 described in subsection (a).

24 (2) The benefits and services for which contact
25 information shall be so transmitted.

1 (3) Such other information on the individual as
2 the individual considers appropriate in connection
3 with the transmittal.

4 (d) DATABASE ON ORGANIZATIONS AND ENTITIES.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense
6 shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Veteran
7 Affairs and State veterans agencies, maintain a
8 database of community-based organizations and re-
9 lated entities described in subsection (a) that have
10 been selected by State veterans agencies as potential
11 recipients of information transmitted as described in
12 that subsection.

13 (2) ACCESS.—Access to the database shall be
14 provided to the following:

15 (A) Members of the Armed Forces who are
16 retiring or separating from the Armed Forces.

17 (B) Veterans.

18 (e) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
19 gress that State veterans agencies, in carrying out a
20 memorandum of understanding or other agreement en-
21 tered into as described in subsection (a), should—

22 (1) have authority to identify and screen com-
23 munity based organizations and related entities de-
24 scribed in subsection (a) who should be recipients of
25 information transmitted as described in that sub-

1 section by reason of being best capable of both serv-
2 ing veterans and protecting the privacy of informa-
3 tion transmitted to them pursuant to that sub-
4 section; and

5 (2) connect individuals described in that sub-
6 section to community-based organizations and re-
7 lated entities identified and screened as described in
8 paragraph (1).

9 **SEC. 4. PERSONNEL MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH TRAN-**
10 **SITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

11 (a) MINIMUM NUMBER OF DEDICATED PER-
12 SONNEL.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense
14 shall take appropriate actions to ensure that the
15 minimum number of full-time equivalent personnel
16 of the Department of Defense dedicated to coun-
17 seling and other activities under the Transition As-
18 sistance Program at each military installation each
19 year is not less than one for every 250 members of
20 the Armed Forces generally projected to be eligible
21 for participation in the Transition Assistance Pro-
22 gram at such military installation in such year. The
23 Secretary may not satisfy the requirement in this
24 paragraph through the use of contractor personnel.

1 (2) APPLICABILITY.—The Secretary shall com-
2 ply with the requirement in paragraph (1) com-
3 mencing not later than one year after the date of the
4 enactment of this Act.

5 (b) MINIMUM CIVILIAN WORKPLACE REQUIRE-
6 MENT.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of providing
8 counselling under and otherwise administering the
9 Transition Assistance Program, the Secretary of De-
10 fense shall take appropriate actions to ensure that,
11 to the maximum extent practicable, each individual
12 employed by the Department of Defense to provide
13 counseling under the Transition Assistance Program
14 has both prior military experience and not less than
15 two years of experience in civilian employment at the
16 time of employment by the Department for such
17 purposes.

18 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
19 Congress that, in employing individuals to provide
20 counseling under the Transition Assistance Pro-
21 gram, the Secretary should consider affording a
22 preference to individuals with longevity of experience
23 in civilian employment at the time of employment by
24 the Department for that purpose.

1 (3) APPLICABILITY.—The Secretary shall com-
2 ply with the requirement in paragraph (1) com-
3 mencing not later than 90 days after the date of the
4 enactment of this Act.

5 (c) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than
6 one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
7 Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report
8 on the actions taken to implement this section, includ-
9 ing—

10 (1) the actions taken to implement subsection
11 (b);

12 (2) the number of individuals employed by the
13 Department under subsection (b);

14 (3) the percentage of individuals employed in
15 connection with the Transition Assistance Program
16 who meet the requirement in subsection (b)(1); and

17 (4) such other information as the Secretary
18 considers appropriate.

19 (d) TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DEFINED.—
20 In this section, the term “Transition Assistance Program”
21 means the program of counseling, information, and serv-
22 ices under section 1142 of title 10, United States Code
23 (as amended by section 2 of this Act).

1 **SEC. 5. SYSTEMS FOR TRACKING PARTICIPATION IN TRAN-**
2 **SITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND RELATED**
3 **PROGRAMS.**

4 (a) SYSTEMS FOR TRACKING PARTICIPATION.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Commencing not later than
6 one year after the date of the enactment of this Act,
7 the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of
8 Homeland Security shall each establish and main-
9 tain an electronic tracking system and database in
10 order to collect, assemble, and make available as de-
11 scribed in paragraph (2) information on the partici-
12 pation and progress of members of the Armed
13 Forces under the jurisdiction of such Secretary in
14 the Transition Assistance Program at the individual,
15 installation, and total forces levels, including infor-
16 mation on the following:

17 (A) Compliance with the commencement
18 and completion timeframes of the Transition
19 Assistance Program required by subsection (d)
20 of section 1142 of title 10, United States Code
21 (as amended by section 2 of this Act).

22 (B) Participation and completion by mem-
23 bers of the specific elements of the Transition
24 Assistance Program described in subsection (g)
25 of such section 1142.

1 (C) Notes made by counselors in connec-
2 tion with the provision of casework and other
3 services under the Transition Assistance Pro-
4 gram.

5 (D) Such other matters in connection with
6 participation and progress of members in the
7 Transition Assistance Program as such Sec-
8 retary considers appropriate.

9 (2) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—Informa-
10 tion in the tracking systems and databases required
11 by paragraph (1), other than information described
12 in paragraph (1)(C), shall be available as follows:

13 (A) To members of the Armed Forces un-
14 dergoing the transition from military life to ci-
15 vilian life, for the personal information of mem-
16 bers.

17 (B) To commanders of members of the
18 Armed Forces at all levels of command for
19 members under their command.

20 (C) To all counselors and managers of
21 counseling under the Transition Assistance Pro-
22 gram for members they serve.

23 (D) To the Secretary of Labor, the Sec-
24 retary of Veterans Affairs, and the heads of any
25 other departments and agencies of the Federal

1 Government involved in the furnishing of coun-
2 seling and services under the Transition Assist-
3 ance Program.

4 (b) DIGITAL PORTAL.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Commencing not later than
6 two years after the date of the enactment of this
7 Act, each Secretary concerned shall establish and
8 maintain an interactive, Internet-based platform for
9 members of the Armed Forces under the jurisdiction
10 of such Secretary to act as a portal for members un-
11 dergoing counseling under the Transition Assistance
12 Program in order to permit such members to do the
13 following:

14 (A) View information on and track
15 progress of the member concerned in the re-
16 quired instruction and counseling of the Transi-
17 tion Assistance Program.

18 (B) View the individual assessment of the
19 member concerned taken pursuant to subsection
20 (g)(1)(A)(ii) of section 1142 of title 10, United
21 States Code (as amended by section 2 of this
22 Act).

23 (C) View and make changes to the transi-
24 tion plan of the member concerned as described

1 in subsection (g)(1)(A)(iii) of such section
2 1142.

3 (D) Access information on the programs
4 and resources available to members of the
5 Armed Forces and their spouses at the military
6 installation concerned in connection with the
7 Transition Assistance Program.

8 (E) Access information and resources re-
9 lated to the topics under subsection (f) of such
10 section 1142.

11 (F) Access the online version of the cur-
12 riculum of instruction under the Transition As-
13 sistance Program.

14 (G) Access and download a digital copy of
15 the Joint Service Transcript of the member
16 concerned.

17 (H) Schedule, view, or change appoint-
18 ments with counselors in connection with the
19 Transition Assistance Program.

20 (I) Access the database maintained pursu-
21 ant under section 3(d).

22 (J) Take the surveys conducted pursuant
23 to section 6(b).

24 (K) Access such other digital information
25 and resources in connection with the Transition

1 Assistance Program as the Secretaries con-
2 cerned and the administering Secretaries jointly
3 consider appropriate.

4 (2) PROTECTION OF PRIVACY.—In carrying out
5 this subsection, the Secretaries concerned shall take
6 all necessary and appropriate actions to protect the
7 personal privacy of individual members of the Armed
8 Forces as required by law.

9 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) The term “Transition Assistance Program”
11 means the program of counseling, information, and
12 services under section 1142 of title 10, United
13 States Code (as amended by section 2 of this Act).

14 (2) The term “Secretary concerned” has the
15 meaning given that term in section 101(a)(9) of title
16 10, United States Code.

17 (3) The term “administering Secretaries” has
18 the meaning given that term for purposes of section
19 1142 of title 10, United States Code (as so amend-
20 ed).

1 **SEC. 6. INFORMATION ON MEMBERS OF THE ARMED**
2 **FORCES PARTICIPATING IN PRESEPARATION**
3 **COUNSELING AND SURVEYS ON MEMBER EX-**
4 **PERIENCES WITH TRANSITION ASSISTANCE**
5 **PROGRAM COUNSELING AND SERVICES AND**
6 **IN TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN LIFE.**

7 (a) INFORMATION ON MEMBERS UNDERGOING
8 PRESEPARATION COUNSELING.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—At the commencement of the
10 furnishing of preseparation counseling to a member
11 of the Armed Forces under the jurisdiction of such
12 Secretary pursuant to section 1142 of title 10,
13 United States Code (as amended by section 2 of this
14 Act), and in connection with the creation of a transi-
15 tion plan for the member as described in subsection
16 (g)(1)(A)(iii) of such section 1142, the Secretary
17 concerned shall obtain the following information on
18 the member:

19 (A) Age.

20 (B) Sex.

21 (C) Grade.

22 (D) Duration of service in the Armed
23 Forces.

24 (E) Whether service in a regular or reserve
25 component of the Armed Forces.

26 (F) Military occupational specialty.

1 (G) Whether retiring or otherwise sepa-
2 rating from the Armed Forces.

3 (H) Anticipated characterization of dis-
4 charge or release.

5 (I) Scope and degree of any disability, if
6 known, incurred in or aggravated by military
7 service.

8 (J) Location of separation, if known.

9 (K) Intended residence and occupational
10 plans, if known, following separation.

11 (L) Intent, if known, to use educational as-
12 sistance available under the laws administered
13 by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

14 (2) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—Each
15 Secretary concerned shall ensure that information
16 obtained pursuant to paragraph (1) is made avail-
17 able online to the individuals specified in section
18 5(a)(2) through the electronic tracking system and
19 database required by section 5(a) and to individual
20 members through the digital portal required by sec-
21 tion 5(b).

22 (3) COMMENCEMENT.—Each Secretary con-
23 cerned shall commence the obtaining of information
24 pursuant to paragraph (1) by not later than one
25 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 (b) SURVEYS ON MEMBER EXPERIENCES WITH
2 TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COUNSELING, INFOR-
3 MATION, AND SERVICES.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each Secretary concerned
5 shall conduct surveys of members of the Armed
6 Forces under the jurisdiction of such Secretary at
7 the conclusion of the receipt by such members of
8 counseling, information, and services under the
9 Transition Assistance Program in order to assess
10 the experiences of such members, and their spouses
11 (if applicable), in the receipt of such counseling, in-
12 formation, and services.

13 (2) ELEMENTS.—The surveys under paragraph
14 (1) shall be designed to obtain information on the
15 Transition Assistance Program as follows:

16 (A) Member assessments of the quality of
17 instruction.

18 (B) Member satisfaction with the scope
19 and quality of courses and services, including
20 courses under paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of
21 subsection (g) of such section 1142.

22 (C) Member assessments of the adequacy
23 of courses and services to meet member transi-
24 tion needs.

1 (D) Obstacles or barriers confronted by
2 members in accessing counseling and services.

3 (E) Whether members participated in the
4 curriculum of the Transition Assistance Pro-
5 gram on an in-person basis or an online, other
6 electronic, or other basis.

7 (F) Such other matters as the admin-
8 istering Secretaries shall specify for purposes of
9 this subsection.

10 (3) COMMENCEMENT.—Each Secretary con-
11 cerned shall commence the conduct of surveys pursu-
12 ant to paragraph (1) by not later than 120 days
13 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

14 (c) SURVEYS ON MEMBER EXPERIENCES IN TRANSI-
15 TION TO CIVILIAN LIFE.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
17 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and
18 every two years thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans
19 Affairs shall, in consultation with the Secretary of
20 Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the
21 Secretary of Education, and the Secretary of Labor,
22 conduct a survey of veterans who have been retired,
23 discharged, or released from the Armed Forces for
24 at least one year, and not longer than four years, at
25 the time of such survey in order to assess the experi-

1 ences of such veterans in the transition from mili-
2 tary life to civilian life.

3 (2) MANNER OF CONDUCT.—The Secretary of
4 Veterans Affairs may conduct surveys under para-
5 graph (1) through a contract with a qualified non-
6 governmental organization selected by the Secretary
7 for purposes of this subsection.

8 (3) ELEMENTS.—The surveys under paragraph
9 (1) shall be designed to obtain the information on
10 the following:

11 (A) Current employment status, and em-
12 ployment history since retirement or separation.

13 (B) Receipt, whether currently or in the
14 past, of unemployment benefits.

15 (C) Educational attainment after military
16 service.

17 (D) Participation of or membership in a
18 veterans' service organization or other support
19 or other group oriented towards veterans.

20 (E) Satisfaction with transition, including
21 satisfaction with counseling and assistance re-
22 ceived in connection with transition (whether
23 pursuant to the Transition Assistance Program
24 or a program under any other provision of law).

1 (F) Whether veterans participated in the
2 curriculum of the Transition Assistance Pro-
3 gram on an in-person basis or an online, other
4 electronic, or other basis.

5 (G) Challenges faced during transition.

6 (H) If married at the time of transition—

7 (i) participation of spouse in the coun-
8 seling and assistance described in subpara-
9 graph (E); and

10 (ii) satisfaction of spouse with the
11 counseling and assistance described in sub-
12 paragraph (E), if any, participated in by
13 the spouse.

14 (I) Whether veterans felt sufficiently pre-
15 pared for a career, education, or other advance-
16 ment after military service as a result of par-
17 ticipation in the Transition Assistance Pro-
18 gram.

19 (J) Recommendations for improvements to
20 the counseling and assistance furnished in con-
21 nection with transition, or for other mecha-
22 nisms to ease and facilitate transition.

23 (K) Such other matters as the Secretary of
24 Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the other

1 Secretaries referred to in paragraph (1), con-
2 siders appropriate.

3 (4) FREQUENCY.—A consenting veteran shall
4 be surveyed under paragraph (1) once during the
5 three-year period beginning one year after the date
6 of the separation of the veteran from the Armed
7 Forces, and may be surveyed twice during such pe-
8 riod.

9 (5) RESULTS.—The results of any survey under
10 this subsection shall be broken out by number of
11 years post-separation of the veterans covered by
12 such survey.

13 (d) PROTECTION OF PRIVACY.—In carrying out this
14 section, the administering Secretaries, the Secretary of
15 Education, and the Secretaries concerned shall take all
16 necessary and appropriate actions to protect the personal
17 privacy of individual members of the Armed Forces and
18 veterans as required by law.

19 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) The term “Transition Assistance Program”
21 means the program of counseling, information, and
22 services under section 1142 of title 10, United
23 States Code (as amended by section 2 of this Act).

1 (2) The term “Secretary concerned” has the
2 meaning given that term in section 101(a)(9) of title
3 10, United States Code.

4 (3) The term “administering Secretaries” has
5 the meaning given that term for purposes of section
6 1142 of title 10, United States Code (as so amend-
7 ed).

8 **SEC. 7. COMMAND MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH TRANSI-**
9 **TION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.**

10 (a) INCLUSION OF SUPPORT FOR PARTICIPATION IN
11 PROGRAMS IN COMMAND CLIMATE ASSESSMENTS.—Each
12 command climate assessment for the commander of a mili-
13 tary installation shall include an assessment of the extent
14 to which the commander and other command personnel
15 at the installation encourage and support the participation
16 in covered transition assistance programs of members of
17 the Armed Forces at the installation who are eligible for
18 participation in such programs.

19 (b) TRAINING ON PROGRAMS.—The training provided
20 a commander of a military installation in connection with
21 the commencement of assignment to the installation shall
22 include a module on the covered transition assistance pro-
23 grams available for members of the Armed Forces as-
24 signed to the installation.

1 (c) COVERED TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
2 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “covered transition
3 assistance programs” means the following:

4 (1) The program of counseling, information,
5 and services under section 1142 of title 10, United
6 States Code, as amended by section 2 of this Act
7 (commonly referred to as the “Transition Assistance
8 Program”).

9 (2) The programs under section 1143(e) of title
10 10, United States Code (commonly referred to as
11 “Job Training, Employment Skills, Apprenticeships
12 and Internships (JTEST–AI)” or “Skill Bridge”).

13 (3) Any other program of apprenticeship, on-
14 the-job training, internship, or transition assistance
15 specified by the Secretary of Defense for purposes of
16 this section.

17 **SEC. 8. COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES**
18 **REPORT ON PARTICIPATION IN TRANSITION**
19 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AT SMALL AND RE-**
20 **MOTE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.**

21 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 18 months
22 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comp-
23 troller General of the United States shall submit to the
24 appropriate committees of Congress a report on a review,
25 conducted by the Comptroller General for purposes of the

1 report, on the participation in covered transition assist-
2 ance programs of members of the Armed Forces assigned
3 to small military installations and remote military installa-
4 tions in the United States.

5 (b) COVERED TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PRO-
6 GRAMS.—For purposes of this section, covered transition
7 assistance programs are the following:

8 (1) The Transition Assistance Program.

9 (2) The programs under section 1143(e) of title
10 10, United States Code (commonly referred to as
11 “Job Training, Employment Skills, Apprenticeships
12 and Internships (JTEST–AI)” or “Skill Bridge”).

13 (3) Any other program of apprenticeship, on-
14 the-job training, or internship offered at a small
15 military installation or remote installation that the
16 Comptroller General considers appropriate for inclu-
17 sion in the review under this section.

18 (c) SMALL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS; REMOTE
19 MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.—For purposes of this section:

20 (1) A small military installation is an installa-
21 tion at which are assigned not more than 10,000
22 members of the Armed Forces.

23 (2) A remote military installation is an installa-
24 tion that is located more than 50 miles from any
25 city with a population of 50,000 people or more (as

1 determined by the Office of Management and Budg-
2 et).

3 (d) SCOPE OF REVIEW.—In conducting the review,
4 the Comptroller General shall evaluate participation in
5 covered transition assistance programs at a number of
6 small military installations and remote military installa-
7 tions that is sufficient to provide a complete under-
8 standing of the participation in such programs of members
9 of the Armed Forces at such installations throughout the
10 United States.

11 (e) ELEMENTS.—The review under this section shall
12 include the following:

13 (1) Rates of participation of members of the
14 Armed Forces in covered transition assistance pro-
15 grams at small military installations and remote
16 military installations in the United States.

17 (2) In the case of the Transition Assistance
18 Program, the following:

19 (A) Compliance with the deadlines for par-
20 ticipation provided for in subsection (d) of sec-
21 tion 1142 of title 10, United States Code (as
22 amended by section 2 of this Act).

23 (B) A comparison between rates of partici-
24 pation in person and rates of participation on
25 line.

1 (C) The average ratio of permanent, full-
2 time equivalent program staff to participating
3 members at small military installations and at
4 remote military installations.

5 (D) The average number of program staff
6 (including full-time equivalent staff and con-
7 tractor staff) physically and permanently lo-
8 cated on installation at small military installa-
9 tions and at remote military installations.

10 (3) Such other matters with respect to partici-
11 pation in covered transition assistance programs of
12 members assigned to small military installations and
13 remote military installations as the Comptroller Gen-
14 eral considers appropriate.

15 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) The term “appropriate committees of Con-
17 gress” means—

18 (A) the Committee on Armed Services and
19 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Sen-
20 ate; and

21 (B) the Committee on Armed Services and
22 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the
23 House of Representatives.

24 (2) The term “Transition Assistance Program”
25 means the program of counseling, information, and

1 services under section 1142 of title 10, United
2 States Code (as amended by section 2 of this Act).

3 **SEC. 9. EDUCATION OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES**
4 **ON CAREER READINESS AND PROFESSIONAL**
5 **DEVELOPMENT.**

6 (a) PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION REQUIRED.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 101 of title 10,
8 United States Code, is amended by inserting after
9 section 2015 the following new section:

10 **“§ 2015a. Education of members on career readiness**
11 **and professional development**

12 “(a) PROGRAM OF EDUCATION REQUIRED.—The
13 Secretary of Defense shall carry out a program to provide
14 education on career readiness and professional develop-
15 ment to members of the armed forces.

16 “(b) ELEMENTS.—The program under this section
17 shall provide members with the following:

18 “(1) Information on the transition plan as de-
19 scribed in section 1142(g)(1)(A)(iii) of this title.

20 “(2) Information on opportunities available to
21 members during military service for professional de-
22 velopment and preparation for a career after mili-
23 tary service, including—

24 “(A) programs of education, certification,
25 training, and employment assistance (including

1 programs under sections 1143(e), 2007, and
2 2015 of this title); and

3 “(B) programs and resources available to
4 members in communities in the vicinity of mili-
5 tary installations.

6 “(3) Instruction on the use of online and other
7 electronic mechanisms in order to access the edu-
8 cation, training, and assistance and resources de-
9 scribed in paragraph (2).

10 “(4) Such other information, instruction, and
11 matters as the Secretary shall specify for purposes
12 of this section.

13 “(c) TIMING OF PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—Sub-
14 ject to subsection (d), information, instruction, and other
15 matters under the program under this section shall be pro-
16 vided to members at the times as follows:

17 “(1) Upon arrival at first duty station.

18 “(2) Upon arrival at any subsequent duty sta-
19 tion.

20 “(3) Upon deployment.

21 “(4) Upon promotion.

22 “(5) Upon reenlistment.

23 “(6) At any other point in a military career
24 specified by the Secretary for purposes of this sec-
25 tion.

1 “(d) SINGLE PROVISION OF INFORMATION IN A YEAR
2 WITH MULTIPLE EVENTS.—A member who has received
3 information and instruction under the program under this
4 section in connection with an event specified in subsection
5 (c) in a year may elect not to undergo additional receipt
6 of information and instruction under the program in con-
7 nection with another such event in the year, unless such
8 other event is arrival at a new duty station.”.

9 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
10 tions at the beginning of chapter 101 of such title
11 is amended by inserting after the item relating to
12 section 2015 the following new item:

“2015a. Education of members on career readiness and professional develop-
ment.”.

13 (b) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
15 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
16 retary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate
17 committees of Congress a report on the program of
18 education required by section 2015a of title 10,
19 United States Code (as added by subsection (a)), in-
20 cluding the following:

21 (A) A comprehensive description of the ac-
22 tions taken to implement the program of edu-
23 cation.

1 (B) A comprehensive description of the
2 program of education.

3 (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS
4 DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appro-
5 priate committees of Congress” means—

6 (A) the Committee on Armed Services and
7 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Sen-
8 ate; and

9 (B) the Committee on Armed Services and
10 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the
11 House of Representatives.

12 **SEC. 10. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON TRANSITION ASSISTANCE**
13 **PROGRAM AND OTHER TRANSITION-RELATED**
14 **ASSISTANCE FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED**
15 **FORCES.**

16 It is the sense of Congress—

17 (1) to acknowledge that the Armed Forces face
18 significant and often competing pressures in car-
19 rying out its essential and fundamental mission to
20 defend the Nation;

21 (2) that ensuring the effective transition of
22 members of the Armed Forces from military life to
23 civilian life represents an essential component of this
24 mission, contributing directly to the long-term suc-

1 cess of the United States military and its missions
2 through its effects on—

3 (A) the long-term success and well-being of
4 current and former members of the Armed
5 Forces and their families;

6 (B) the perception of the Armed Forces by
7 the American public; and

8 (C) the civilian-military partnership inte-
9 gral to the United States military;

10 (3) that the program of counseling, informa-
11 tion, and services under section 1142 of title 10,
12 United States Code (as amended by section 2 of this
13 Act), while effective in the worthy goal of reducing
14 the need for unemployment assistance among former
15 members of the Armed Forces, should be designed
16 and carried out for the holistic benefit, in both good
17 and bad economic climates, of members of the
18 Armed Forces participating in the program, and not
19 simply as a metric or tool for employment;

20 (4) to support and commend efforts by the De-
21 partment of Defense, the Department of Labor, and
22 other agencies of the Federal Government in coordi-
23 nating Federal and State efforts to assist members
24 of the Armed Forces in identifying civilian equiva-
25 lences for military occupational skills, but also to

1 urge the Department of Defense to ensure that the
2 Transition Assistance Program also provides mem-
3 bers the tools and assistance for reinventing them-
4 selves during the transition from military life to ci-
5 vilian life, even when their new personal and profes-
6 sional goals do not align with their military occupa-
7 tions;

8 (5) to commend and further encourage efforts
9 to incorporate metrics for compliance with Transi-
10 tion Assistance Program requirements into leader-
11 ship assessments and criteria for promotion of com-
12 manding officers in the Armed Forces;

13 (6) to encourage the Secretary of Defense to as-
14 sign accountability and responsibility for compliance
15 with Transition Assistance Program requirements to
16 the lowest level of command appropriate and to es-
17 tablish uniform, Armed Forces-wide policy on the in-
18 dividuals at unit level who are responsible for moni-
19 toring compliance of members of the Armed Forces
20 with such requirements;

21 (7) that the Secretary of Defense should seek to
22 enhance collaboration and access to transition-re-
23 lated services by members of the Armed Forces by
24 seeking to co-locate Federal, State, and local offi-
25 cials and contractors who administer the Transition

1 Assistance Program and State and local officials and
2 partner, nongovernmental entities associated with
3 the Transition Assistance Program or who offer
4 transition-related services in the same or proximate
5 physical locations, when possible;

6 (8) that the Secretary of Defense and the Sec-
7 retary of Labor should seek to minimize subjectivity
8 in career readiness metrics under the Transition As-
9 sistance Program in accordance with recommenda-
10 tions of the Comptroller General of the United
11 States; and

12 (9) to encourage the Department of Defense,
13 the Department of Labor, the Department of Vet-
14 erans Affairs and appropriate State agencies to work
15 together, and with veterans service organizations, to
16 establish in States or locales, as appropriate, local
17 points of contact responsible for—

18 (A) at the election of members of the
19 Armed Forces relocating to such State or locale
20 after military service, contacting the members
21 before separation from the Armed Forces;

22 (B) providing members of the Armed
23 Force with employment, education, and other
24 appropriate information about the State or lo-
25 cale to assist in relocation; and

1 (C) coordinating services for members of
2 the Armed Forces and the spouses who relocate
3 to the State or locale after military service.

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