

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3354

To authorize the Transition Assistance Advisor program of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 28, 2012

Mr. CASEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To authorize the Transition Assistance Advisor program of the Department of Defense, 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 “Transition Assistance
5 Advisor Act of 2012”.

6 **SEC. 2. TRANSITION ASSISTANCE ADVISOR PROGRAM.**

7 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 58 of title 10,
9 United States Code, is amended by inserting after
10 section 1144 the following new section:

1 **“§ 1144A. Transition Assistance Advisors**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall
3 establish as part of the Transition Assistance Program
4 (TAP) a Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA) program to
5 provide professionals in each State to serve as statewide
6 points of contact to assist members of the armed forces
7 in accessing benefits and health care furnished under laws
8 administered by the Secretary of Defense and benefits and
9 health care furnished under laws administered by the Sec-
10 retary of Veterans Affairs.

11 “(b) NUMBER OF ADVISORS.—The Secretary of De-
12 fense shall ensure that the minimum number of Transition
13 Assistance Advisors in each State is as follows:

14 “(1) During the period beginning 180 days be-
15 fore the commencement of a contingency operation
16 (or, if later, as soon before as is otherwise prac-
17 ticable) and ending 180 days after the conclusion of
18 such contingency operation—

19 “(A) in the case of a State with fewer than
20 1,500 members of the Army National Guard of
21 the United States and the Air National Guard
22 of the United States residing in the State, not
23 less than one Transition Assistance Advisor;
24 and

25 “(B) in the case of a State with 1,500 or
26 more members of the Army National Guard of

1 the United States and the Air National Guard
2 of the United States who reside in such State,
3 not less than one Transition Assistance Advisor
4 for each 1,500 members of the Army National
5 Guard of the United States and the Air Na-
6 tional Guard of the United States who reside in
7 such State.

8 “(2) At any time not covered by paragraph
9 (1)—

10 “(A) in the case of a State with fewer than
11 5,000 members of the Army National Guard of
12 the United States and the Air National Guard
13 of the United States residing in the State, not
14 less than one Transition Assistance Advisor;
15 and

16 “(B) in the case of a State with 5,000 or
17 more members of the Army National Guard of
18 the United States and the Air National Guard
19 of the United States who reside in such State,
20 not less than one Transition Assistance Advisor
21 for each 1,500 members of the Army National
22 Guard of the United States and the Air Na-
23 tional Guard of the United States who reside in
24 such State.

1 “(c) DUTIES.—The duties of a Transition Assistance
2 Advisor includes the following:

3 “(1) To assist with the creation and execution
4 of individual transition plans for members of the
5 National Guard described in subsection (d)(2) and
6 their families for the reintegration of such members
7 into civilian life.

8 “(2) To provide employment support services to
9 members of the National Guard and their families,
10 including assistance with discovering employment
11 opportunities and identifying and obtaining assist-
12 ance from programs within and outside of the Fed-
13 eral Government.

14 “(3) Provide information on relocation, health
15 care, mental health care, and financial support serv-
16 ices available to members of the National Guard or
17 their families from the Department of Defense, the
18 Department of Veterans Affairs, and other Federal,
19 State, and local agencies.

20 “(4) Provide information on educational sup-
21 port services available to members of the National
22 Guard, including Post-9/11 Educational Assistance
23 under chapter 33 of title 38.

24 “(d) TRANSITION PLANS.—(1) Each individual plan
25 created under subsection (c)(1) for a member of the Na-

1 tional Guard described in paragraph (2) shall include the
2 following:

3 “(A) A plan for the transition of the member
4 to life in the civilian world, including with respect to
5 employment, education, and health care.

6 “(B) A description of the transition services
7 that the member and the member’s family will need
8 to achieve their transition objectives, including infor-
9 mation on any forms that such member will need to
10 fill out to be eligible for such services.

11 “(C) A point of contact for each agency or enti-
12 ty that can provide the transition services described
13 in subparagraph (B).

14 “(2) A member of the National Guard described in
15 this paragraph is any member of the National Guard who
16 has served on active duty in the armed forces for a period
17 of more than 180 days.

18 “(e) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term
19 ‘State’ means each of the several States of the United
20 States, the District of Columbia, and any territory of the
21 United States.

22 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
23 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
24 out this section—

25 “(1) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2013; and

1 “(2) such sums as may be necessary for each
2 fiscal year thereafter.”.

3 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
4 tions at the beginning of chapter 58 of such title is
5 amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-
6 tion 1144 the following new item:

“1144A. Transition Assistance Advisors.”.

7 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date
8 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
9 shall submit to Congress a report setting forth a descrip-
10 tion of the efforts of the Secretary to implement the re-
11 quirements of section 1144A of title 10, United States
12 Code, as added by subsection (a)(1).

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