

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2413

To amend title 10, United States Code, to establish a program of employment assistance, including employment-related tuition assistance, for military spouses.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 28, 2001

Mr. RILEY (for himself, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. FROST, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. EVANS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. SIMMONS, and Mrs. JONES of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to establish a program of employment assistance, including employment-related tuition assistance, for military spouses.

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 “Military Spouse Employment Assistance Act of 2001”.

6 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Military spouse employment financial assistance program.

Sec. 3. Department of Defense employment and training opportunities.

Sec. 4. Encouragement of Federal partnerships in support of military spouse employment.

Sec. 5. Encouragement of private-sector employment of military spouses.

Sec. 6. Employment of military spouses by defense contractors.

Sec. 7. Effective date.

1 **SEC. 2. MILITARY SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT FINANCIAL AS-**
 2 **SISTANCE PROGRAM.**

3 (a) **AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE SPECIFIED FORMS OF**
 4 **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO MILITARY SPOUSES.—(1)**
 5 Chapter 88 of title 10, United States Code, is amended
 6 by inserting after section 1784 the following new section:
 7 **“§ 1784a. Spouse employment financial assistance**
 8 **program**

9 “(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**—The Secretary
 10 of Defense may conduct a program to provide financial
 11 assistance to military spouses to assist them in gaining
 12 employment. As part of such a program, the Secretary
 13 may carry out a program of tuition assistance for military
 14 spouses pursuing a program of employment-related edu-
 15 cation or training.

16 “(b) **MILITARY SPOUSE DEFINED.**—In this section,
 17 the term ‘military spouse’ means the spouse of a member
 18 of the armed forces on active duty.

19 “(c) **PROGRAM GOALS.**—The Secretary shall pre-
 20 scribe specific goals for the program under this section.
 21 Those goals shall include goals for improvements in reten-
 22 tion for married members of the armed forces on active

1 duty attributable to improvements in family income of
2 those members and resulting improvements in the quality
3 of life of those members and their families.

4 “(d) TYPES OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—Under the
5 program, the Secretary may provide financial assistance
6 for military spouses for one or more of the following pur-
7 poses, as specified in regulations prescribed under this sec-
8 tion:

9 “(1) Career-related education, in accordance
10 with subsection (e).

11 “(2) Certification and license fees for employ-
12 ment-related purposes.

13 “(3) Apprenticeships and internships.

14 “(4) Technical training.

15 “(5) Training to improve job skills.

16 “(6) Career counseling.

17 “(7) Skills assessment.

18 “(8) Job-search skills.

19 “(9) Job-related transportation.

20 “(10) Child care.

21 “(11) Any additional employment-related pur-
22 pose specified in the regulations prescribed under
23 subsection (g).

24 “(e) TUITION ASSISTANCE.—Financial assistance
25 under subsection (d)(1) for career-related education shall

1 be provided through a tuition assistance program offering
2 benefits similar to those provided under the tuition assist-
3 ance program for members of the armed forces under sec-
4 tion 2007 of this title that will improve education and em-
5 ployment opportunities for military spouses.

6 “(f) COORDINATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS.—The
7 Secretary shall ensure that the provisions of this section
8 are carried out in coordination with other programs of the
9 Department of Defense (including the relocation assist-
10 ance program under section 1056 of this title) under
11 which employment-related assistance may be provided to
12 spouses of members of the armed forces.

13 “(g) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense shall
14 prescribe regulations for the purposes of the program
15 under this section. In those regulations, the Secretary
16 shall specify the following:

17 “(1) Eligibility for financial assistance under
18 the program , including eligibility for tuition assist-
19 ance under subsection (e).

20 “(2) The types of assistance that may be pro-
21 vided.

22 “(3) The maximum amount of such assistance
23 that may be provided for each of the types of assist-
24 ance specified under subsection (d).

1 “(h) INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION ON PILOT BASIS.—

2 (1) During the first three fiscal years during which the
3 program under this section is carried out, the program
4 shall be conducted on a pilot basis in a limited number
5 of geographic areas, including bases overseas, for the pur-
6 pose of evaluating different program options and program
7 effectiveness.

8 “(2) The Secretary shall conduct an evaluation of the
9 program at the mid-term point of the pilot program period
10 under paragraph (1) and at the conclusion of the pilot
11 program period. Each such evaluation shall assess the suc-
12 cess of the program, including the success of the program
13 in meeting the goals specified for the program. The Sec-
14 retary shall submit a report on each such evaluation to
15 the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the
16 Committee on Armed Services of the House of Represent-
17 atives.”.

18 (2) The table of sections at the beginning of such
19 chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating
20 to section 1784 the following new item:

“1784a. Spouse employment financial assistance program.”.

21 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
22 authorized to be appropriated for the military spouse em-
23 ployment assistance program under section 1784a of title
24 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), a total

1 of \$12,000,000 for the first three fiscal years during
2 which the program is in operation.

3 (c) INITIAL LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall specify
4 the specific locations, including bases overseas, at which
5 the military spouse employment assistance program under
6 section 1784a of title 10, United States Code, as added
7 by subsection (a), is to be conducted for the period under
8 subsection (h) of that section during which the program
9 is to be conducted on a pilot basis.

10 **SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EMPLOYMENT AND**
11 **TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES.**

12 (a) REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE POLI-
13 CIES.—The Secretary of Defense shall review Department
14 of Defense policies that affect employment opportunities
15 for military spouses in the Department of Defense in order
16 to maximize those opportunities. The review shall include
17 the consideration of providing, to the extent authorized by
18 law, separate spouse preferences for employment by ap-
19 propriated and nonappropriated fund operations.

20 (b) SPACE-AVAILABLE USE OF DEPARTMENT OF DE-
21 FENSE FACILITIES FOR TRAINING PURPOSES.—Section
22 1784 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by add-
23 ing at the end the following new subsection:

24 “(d) SPACE-AVAILABLE USE OF FACILITIES FOR
25 TRAINING PURPOSES.—The Secretary of Defense shall

1 take such steps as appropriate to maximize opportunities
2 for spouses of members of the armed forces to be provided
3 employment-related training in Department of Defense fa-
4 cilities on a space-available basis during normal duty
5 hours and during other periods when those facilities are
6 not being fully utilized.”.

7 **SEC. 4. ENCOURAGEMENT OF FEDERAL PARTNERSHIPS IN**
8 **SUPPORT OF MILITARY SPOUSE EMPLOY-**
9 **MENT.**

10 Section 1784 of title 10, United States Code, as
11 amended by section 3(b), is further amended by adding
12 at the end the following new subsection:

13 “(e) EMPLOYMENT BY OTHER FEDERAL AGEN-
14 CIES.—The Secretary of Defense shall work with the Di-
15 rector of the Office of Personnel Management and the
16 heads of other Federal departments and agencies to facili-
17 tate the appropriate use of existing Federal programs and
18 resources in support of military spouse employment.”.

19 **SEC. 5. ENCOURAGEMENT OF PRIVATE-SECTOR EMPLOY-**
20 **MENT OF MILITARY SPOUSES.**

21 Section 1784 of title 10, United States Code, as
22 amended by section 4, is further amended by adding at
23 the end the following new subsection:

24 “(f) PRIVATE-SECTOR EMPLOYMENT.—The Sec-
25 retary of Defense—

1 “(1) shall seek to develop partnerships with
2 firms in the private sector to enhance employment
3 opportunities for spouses of members of the armed
4 forces and to provide for improved job portability for
5 such spouses, especially in the case of the spouse of
6 a member of the armed forces accompanying the
7 member to a new geographical area because of a
8 change of permanent duty station of the member;
9 and

10 “(2) shall work with the United States Cham-
11 ber of Commerce and other appropriate private-sec-
12 tor entities to facilitate the formation of such part-
13 nerships.”.

14 **SEC. 6. EMPLOYMENT OF MILITARY SPOUSES BY DEFENSE**
15 **CONTRACTORS.**

16 Section 1784 of title 10, United States Code, as
17 amended by section 5, is further amended adding at the
18 end the following new subsection:

19 “(g) **EMPLOYMENT WITH DEFENSE CONTRAC-**
20 **TORS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regula-
21 tion to ensure, to the extent practicable, that private-sec-
22 tor entities, in hiring for work to be performed on a con-
23 tract with the Department of Defense, provide preference
24 to qualified spouses of members of the armed forces and
25 other employment opportunities for such spouses in the

1 same manner as is provided for positions in the Depart-
2 ment of Defense under subsection (b).”.

3 **SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

4 The amendments made by this Act shall take effect
5 on October 1, 2001.

○