

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2861

To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide incentives for States to accept professional credentials related to military training and skills that are obtained by members of the Armed Forces while serving in the Armed Forces.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 8, 2017

Mr. RUSSELL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide incentives for States to accept professional credentials related to military training and skills that are obtained by members of the Armed Forces while serving in the Armed Forces.

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 Military Service
5 Members Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCENTIVES TO INCREASE STATE PARTICIPATION**
2 **IN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS TO**
3 **ASSIST MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN**
4 **OBTAINING PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS**
5 **WHILE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2015 of title 10, United
7 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
8 lowing new subsection:

9 “(f) EFFECT OF FAILURE OF STATES TO ACCEPT
10 PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS OBTAINED UNDER PRO-
11 GRAM.—(1) If the Secretary concerned determines that a
12 State that imposes professional licensing requirements
13 fails to accept professional credentials related to military
14 training and skills that are obtained by members of the
15 armed forces under the program required by this section
16 or under a similar program for members accredited by a
17 nationally recognized, third-party personnel certification
18 program accreditor, the Secretary concerned shall with-
19 hold payments for Unemployment Compensation for Ex-
20 Servicemembers otherwise due to that State for a calendar
21 quarter.

22 “(2) Amounts withheld from a State under paragraph
23 (1), if remaining unpaid at the end of a fiscal year because
24 of the continued failure of the State to accept member
25 professional credentials described in paragraph (1) before
26 the end of that fiscal year, shall be available to the Sec-

1 retary concerned during the next fiscal year to carry out
2 the program required by this section. Such amounts are
3 in addition to other amounts made available to carry out
4 the program.

5 “(3) Paragraph (1) shall take effect 180 days after
6 the date of the enactment of this subsection.”.

7 (b) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND PROGRESS RE-
8 PORT.—

9 (1) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than
10 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
11 the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of
12 Homeland Security, with respect to the Coast
13 Guard, shall submit to the Committees on Armed
14 Services of the Senate and House of Representatives
15 a plan to implement the amendment made by sub-
16 section (a).

17 (2) PROGRESS REPORT.—Not later than two
18 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
19 Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland
20 Security, with respect to the Coast Guard, shall sub-
21 mit to the Committees on Armed Services of the
22 Senate and House of Representatives a report evalu-
23 ating the success of the amendment made by sub-
24 section (a) in forcing States to accept professional
25 credentials related to military training and skills

1 that are obtained by members of the Armed Forces
2 while serving in the Armed Forces.

3 (3) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of Defense
4 and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall carry
5 out this subsection in consultation with the Secre-
6 taries of the military departments and the Secretary
7 of Labor.

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