

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 846

To amend the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a vacancy and recruitment database to facilitate the recruitment of certain members of the Armed Forces to satisfy the occupational needs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to establish and implement a training and certification program for intermediate care technicians in that Department, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 29, 2019

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico (for herself, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. JONES, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mr. CISNEROS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a vacancy and recruitment database to facilitate the recruitment of certain members of the Armed Forces to satisfy the occupational needs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to establish and implement a training and certification program for intermediate care technicians in that Department, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Serving Vet-  
3 erans Act of 2019”.

4 **SEC. 2. RECRUITMENT DATABASE.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 208 of the VA Choice  
6 and Quality Employment Act (Public Law 115–46; 38  
7 U.S.C. 701 note) is amended as follows:

8 (1) In subsection (a)—

9 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph  
10 (1), by striking “a single database” and insert-  
11 ing “and maintain a single searchable database  
12 (to be known as the ‘Departments of Defense  
13 and Veterans Affairs Recruitment Database’)”;

14 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “; and”  
15 and inserting a semicolon;

16 (C) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-  
17 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

18 (D) by adding after paragraph (2) the fol-  
19 lowing new paragraph:

20 “(3) with respect to each vacant position under  
21 paragraphs (1) and (2)—

22 “(A) the military occupational specialty or  
23 skill that corresponds to the position, as deter-  
24 mined by the Secretary, in consultation with the  
25 Secretary of Defense; and

1           “(B) each qualified member of the Armed  
2           Forces who may be recruited to fill the position  
3           before such qualified member of the Armed  
4           Forces has been discharged and released from  
5           active duty.”.

6           (2) By redesignating subsections (b), (c), and  
7           (d) as subsections (f), (g), and (h), respectively.

8           (3) By inserting after subsection (a) the fol-  
9           lowing new subsections:

10          “(b) **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**—Subject to sub-  
11          section (c), the database established under subsection (a)  
12          shall include, with respect to each qualified member of the  
13          Armed Forces, the following information:

14                 “(1) The name and contact information of the  
15                 qualified member of the Armed Forces.

16                 “(2) The date on which the qualified member of  
17                 the Armed Forces is expected to be discharged and  
18                 released from active duty.

19                 “(3) Each military occupational specialty cur-  
20                 rently or previously assigned to the qualified member  
21                 of the Armed Forces.

22          “(c) **AVAILABILITY.**—Information in the database  
23          shall be available to offices, officials, and employees of the  
24          Department of Veterans Affairs to the extent the Sec-  
25          retary of Veterans Affairs determines appropriate.

1       “(d) EXPEDITED HIRING PROCEDURES.—The Sec-  
2 retary shall hire qualified members of the Armed Forces  
3 who apply for vacant positions listed in the database es-  
4 tablished under subsection (a) without regard to the provi-  
5 sions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United  
6 States Code.

7       “(e) RELOCATION BONUS.—The Secretary may au-  
8 thorize a relocation bonus, in an amount determined ap-  
9 propriate by the Secretary and subject to the same limita-  
10 tions as in the case of the authority provided under section  
11 5753 of title 5, to any qualified member of the Armed  
12 Forces who has accepted a position listed in the database  
13 established under subsection (a).”.

14           (4) In subsection (g)(1), as redesignated in  
15 paragraph (2), by striking “subsection (b)” and in-  
16 serting “subsection (g)”.

17           (5) In subsection (h), as redesignated in para-  
18 graph (2), by striking “of this Act” and inserting  
19 “of the Veterans Serving Veterans Act of 2019, and  
20 annually thereafter”.

21           (6) By adding after subsection (h), as redesi-  
22 gnated in paragraph (2), the following new sub-  
23 section:

24       “(i) QUALIFIED MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES  
25 DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘qualified member of

1 the Armed Forces’ means a member of the Armed  
2 Forces—

3 “(1) described in section 1142(a) of title 10;

4 “(2) who elects to be listed in the database es-  
5 tablished under subsection (a); and

6 “(3) who has been determined by the Secretary,  
7 in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, to  
8 have a military occupational speciality that cor-  
9 responds to a vacant position described in subsection  
10 (a).”.

11 (b) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180  
12 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
13 retary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees  
14 on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives and  
15 the Senate a plan to implement, including a timeline, sec-  
16 tion 208 of the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act  
17 (Public Law 115–46; 38 U.S.C. 701 note), as amended  
18 by this section.

19 **SEC. 3. INTERMEDIATE CARE TECHNICIAN TRAINING PRO-**  
20 **GRAM.**

21 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans  
22 Affairs shall implement a program to train and certify cov-  
23 ered veterans to work as intermediate care technicians in  
24 the Department of Veterans Affairs.

25 (b) LOCATIONS.—

1           (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-  
2           tablish centers at medical facilities of the Depart-  
3           ment selected by the Secretary for the purposes of  
4           carrying out the program under subsection (a).

5           (2) SELECTION OF MEDICAL FACILITIES.—In  
6           selecting a medical facility of the Department under  
7           this subsection to serve as a center, the Secretary  
8           shall consider—

9                   (A) the experience and success of the facil-  
10                  ity in training intermediate care technicians;  
11                  and

12                   (B) the availability of resources of the fa-  
13                  cility to train intermediate care technicians.

14           (c) COVERED VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section,  
15           the term “covered veteran” means a veteran whom the  
16           Secretary determines served as a basic health care techni-  
17           cian while serving in the Armed Forces.

18   **SEC. 4. NO AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19           No additional funds are authorized to be appro-  
20           priated to carry out section 208 of the VA Choice and  
21           Quality Employment Act (Public Law 115–46; 38 U.S.C.  
22           701 note), as amended by section 2 of this Act, or to carry  
23           out section 3 of this Act. Such sections shall be carried

1 out using amounts otherwise authorized to be appro-  
2 priated for such purpose.

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