

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1555

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 21, 2019

Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. GARDNER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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
7 Servicemembers Act” or “IMPROVE Transition for
8 Servicemembers 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. 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 (c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DE-
 4 FINED.—In this Act, the term “appropriate committees of
 5 Congress” means—

- 6 (1) the Committee on Armed Services and the
 7 Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate; and
- 8 (2) the Committee on Armed Services and the
 9 Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of
 10 Representatives.

11 **SEC. 2. RECODIFICATION, CONSOLIDATION, AND IMPROVE-**
 12 **MENT OF CERTAIN TRANSITION-RELATED**
 13 **COUNSELING AND ASSISTANCE AUTHORI-**
 14 **TIES.**

15 (a) RECODIFICATION, CONSOLIDATION, AND IM-
 16 PROVEMENT OF AUTHORITIES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 58 of title 10,
2 United States Code, is amended by striking sections
3 1142 and 1144 and inserting after section 1141 the
4 following new section 1142:

5 **“§ 1142. Transition-related counseling and services:**
6 **Transition Assistance Program**

7 “(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—

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

22 “(2) COUNSELING, INFORMATION, AND SERV-
23 ICES.—The counseling, information, and services
24 furnished under the program (in this section re-
25 ferred to as ‘covered counseling, information, and

1 services’) shall include the following in connection
2 with the transition from military life to civilian life:

3 “(A) Information on the topics described
4 in subsection (f).

5 “(B) Training, employment assistance, and
6 other related information and services, includ-
7 ing as described in subsection (h).

8 “(C) Such other counseling, information,
9 and services as the Secretaries referred to in
10 paragraph (1) consider appropriate to assist
11 members of the armed forces, and their
12 spouses, in the transition from military life to
13 civilian life.

14 “(3) AGREEMENT.—The Secretaries referred to
15 in paragraph (1) (in this section referred to as the
16 ‘administering Secretaries’) shall enter into a de-
17 tailed agreement to carry out this section.

18 “(4) CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES.—In carrying
19 out the program, the administering Secretaries shall
20 do the following:

21 “(A) Work together to develop and revise
22 necessary training documents, resources, and
23 curriculum for the purposes of the program.

24 “(B) In providing information in connec-
25 tion with preseparation counseling under sub-

1 section (f)(4), use experience obtained from im-
2 plementation of the pilot program under section
3 408 of Public Law 101–237.

4 “(C) Work with military and veterans’
5 service organizations and other appropriate or-
6 ganizations to promote and publicize job fairs
7 for members furnished covered counseling, in-
8 formation, and services under the program.

9 “(D) In the case of members furnished
10 covered counseling, information, and services
11 under the program who have a spouse—

12 “(i) include the spouse in such coun-
13 seling, information, and services, at the
14 election of the member and the spouse; and

15 “(ii) provide job placement counseling
16 for the spouse in connection with the tran-
17 sition of the member from military life to
18 civilian life.

19 “(b) PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS REQUIRED.—The
20 Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Se-
21 curity shall require the participation in the program under
22 this section of all members eligible for assistance under
23 the program.

24 “(c) SERVICE REQUIRED BEFORE FURNISHING OF
25 PRESEPARATION COUNSELING.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
2 the Secretary concerned shall not furnish
3 preparation counseling under the program under
4 this section to a member who is being discharged or
5 released before the completion of the first 180 con-
6 tinuous days of active duty of the member.

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

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

15 “(A) Any day on which the member per-
16 formed full-time training duty or annual train-
17 ing duty.

18 “(B) Any day on which the member at-
19 tended, while in the active military service, a
20 school designated as a service school by law or
21 by the Secretary concerned.

22 “(d) COMMENCEMENT AND COMPLETION.—

23 “(1) COMMENCEMENT.—

24 “(A) RETIRING MEMBERS.—In the case of
25 a member who is retiring from the armed

1 forces, the furnishing of covered counseling, in-
2 formation, and services to such member under
3 the program under this section shall commence
4 as early as possible during the 24-month period
5 preceding the anticipated retirement date.

6 “(B) MEMBERS SEPARATED OR RE-
7 LEASED.—In the case of a member who is
8 being separated or released from the armed
9 forces (other than by retirement), the fur-
10 nishing of counseling, information, and services
11 to such member under the program shall com-
12 mence not later than 365 days before the an-
13 ticipated separation or release date.

14 “(C) DEADLINE FOR COMMENCEMENT.—
15 Except as provided in paragraph (4), under no
16 circumstances shall the furnishing of covered
17 counseling, information, and services to a mem-
18 ber under the program commence later than
19 365 days before the date of retirement, separa-
20 tion, or release of the member from the armed
21 forces.

22 “(2) COMPLETION.—Except as provided in
23 paragraph (4), the furnishing of covered counseling,
24 information, and services to a member under the
25 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 being separated or released from the armed
6 forces, by not later than 90 days before the
7 date of separation or release.

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

16 “(4) UNANTICIPATED RETIREMENT, SEPARA-
17 TION, OR RELEASE IN CONNECTION WITH
18 PRESEPARATION COUNSELING.—In the event that a
19 retirement or other separation or released from the
20 armed forces is unanticipated until there are 90 or
21 fewer days before the anticipated retirement or sepa-
22 ration or release date, or in the event a member of
23 a reserve component is being demobilized under cir-
24 cumstances in which (as determined by the Sec-
25 retary concerned) operational requirements make the

1 120-day or 90-day requirement under paragraph (2)
2 unfeasible, preseparation counseling under the pro-
3 gram shall begin as soon as possible within the re-
4 maining period of service.

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

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

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

23 “(f) TOPICS COVERED BY PROGRAM.—The
24 preseparation counseling furnished a member under the
25 program under this section shall include the 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 resume 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) information on government and pri-
2 vate-sector programs for job search and job
3 placement assistance, and information on the
4 placement programs established under sections
5 1152 and 1153 of this title and the Troops-to-
6 Teachers Program;

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

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

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

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

22 “(L) disability-related employment and
23 education protections; and

24 “(M) career and employment opportunities
25 available to members with transportation secu-

1 rity cards issued under section 70105 of title
2 46.

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

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

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

19 “(C) counseling (for the member and de-
20 pendents) on the effect of career change on in-
21 dividuals and their families and the availability
22 to the member and dependents of suicide pre-
23 vention resources following separation from the
24 armed forces;

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

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

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

21 “(g) COUNSELING PATHWAYS.—Each Secretary con-
22 cerned shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor
23 and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, establish at least
24 three pathways for members of the armed forces under
25 the jurisdiction of such Secretary concerned to receive in-

1 individualized counseling under this section. The pathways
2 shall address the needs of members based on the following
3 factors:

4 “(1) Rank.

5 “(2) Term of service.

6 “(3) Gender.

7 “(4) Whether the member is a member of a
8 regular or reserve component of an armed force.

9 “(5) Disability.

10 “(6) Anticipated characterization of retirement,
11 separation, or release from the armed forces (includ-
12 ing expedited discharge and discharge under condi-
13 tions other than honorable).

14 “(7) Health (including mental health).

15 “(8) Military occupational specialty.

16 “(9) Whether the member intends, after retire-
17 ment, separation, or release, to—

18 “(A) seek employment;

19 “(B) enroll in a program of higher edu-
20 cation;

21 “(C) enroll in a program of vocational
22 training; or

23 “(D) become an entrepreneur.

24 “(10) The educational history of the member.

25 “(11) The employment history of the member.

1 “(12) Whether the member has secured—

2 “(A) employment;

3 “(B) enrollment in a program of education;

4 or

5 “(C) enrollment in a program of vocational
6 training.

7 “(13) Whether the member has a spouse or any
8 dependents.

9 “(14) Such other factors the Secretary of De-
10 fense and the Secretary of Homeland Security, in
11 consultation with the Secretary of Labor and the
12 Secretary of Veterans Affairs, consider appropriate.

13 “(h) SPECIFIC COMPONENTS OF COVERED COUN-
14 SELING, INFORMATION, AND SERVICES.—The covered
15 counseling, information, and services furnished to a mem-
16 ber under the program under this section shall include the
17 following:

18 “(1) PRELIMINARY MEETING.—Before the com-
19 mencement of the furnishing of such counseling, in-
20 formation, and services under the program to the
21 member, the member shall meet in person or by
22 video conference with a counselor, during which—

23 “(A) the counselor shall furnish to the
24 member—

1 “(i) a self-assessment jointly designed
2 by the Secretaries concerned (in consulta-
3 tion with the Secretary of Labor and the
4 Secretary of Veterans Affairs) to ensure
5 that the Secretary concerned places the
6 member in the appropriate counseling
7 pathway under subsection (g);

8 “(ii) information regarding reenlist-
9 ment in the armed forces;

10 “(iii) information regarding organiza-
11 tions, entities, and resources (including re-
12 sources regarding military sexual trauma)
13 for individuals who are retired, separated,
14 or released from the armed forces that are
15 located in the community in which the
16 member will reside after retirement, sepa-
17 ration, or release, including programs de-
18 scribed in subsection (f)(5)(B) and re-
19 sources through State veterans agencies as
20 described in section 3(a) of the Improving
21 Preseparation and Resources for Occupa-
22 tional, Vocational, and Educational Transi-
23 tion for Servicemembers Act;

24 “(iv) a military-civilian equivalency re-
25 view designed to determine what licensing,

1 credentiaing, and other requirements for
2 occupations in the civilian sector align with
3 or would be satisfied by the military occu-
4 pational specialty (MOS) and other mili-
5 tary skills and experience of the member;

6 “(v) an individualized, personality-
7 based skills and career assessment de-
8 signed to determine the individual and per-
9 sonal strengths and career interests of the
10 member; and

11 “(vi) assistance in developing an indi-
12 vidual transition plan for the member to
13 attempt to achieve the educational, train-
14 ing, employment, and financial objectives
15 of the member and, if the member has a
16 spouse, the spouse of the member; and

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
21 Labor and the Secretary of Veterans Af-
22 fairs) provide the contact information of
23 the member to the organizations, entities,
24 and resources described in subparagraph
25 (A)(iii).

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–2648 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, Voca-
11 tional, and Educational Transition for
12 Servicemembers Act.

13 “(2) GENERAL INSTRUCTION.—A course of
14 general instruction, of at least one day, on such top-
15 ics specified in subsection (f), or otherwise specific
16 to the armed force concerned, as the administering
17 Secretaries consider appropriate.

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

22 “(A) Employment.

23 “(B) Education.

24 “(C) Entrepreneurship.

25 “(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 resume-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 application 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) PARTICIPATION IN APPRENTICESHIP PRO-
19 GRAMS.—For a member otherwise eligible to partici-
20 pate in such a program, participation in an appren-
21 ticeship program registered under the Act of August
22 16, 1937 (commonly known as the ‘National Ap-
23 prenticeship Act’; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29
24 U.S.C. 50 et seq.), or a pre-apprenticeship program
25 that provides credit toward a program registered

1 under such Act, that provides education, training,
2 and services necessary to transition to meaningful
3 employment that leads to economic self-sufficiency.

4 “(7) ORDER OF COUNSELING AND INSTRU-
5 TION.—A member shall receive the counseling and
6 instruction required by paragraphs (2) and (3) be-
7 fore any other instruction required by this sub-
8 section. A member may undertake any other instruc-
9 tion required by this subsection at a pace and order
10 satisfactory to the member, subject to the require-
11 ment to complete all such instruction by the deadline
12 provided in subsection (d)(2).

13 “(8) FREQUENCY OF TRAINING.—The Sec-
14 retary concerned shall ensure, to the extent prac-
15 ticable and subject to urgent mission needs, that
16 members who elect to undergo additional training or
17 counseling under this subsection are able to do so—

18 “(A) before the time periods established
19 under subsection (d); and

20 “(B) in addition to such training and in-
21 struction required during such time periods.

22 “(i) RECORD OF RECEIPT OF COVERED COUN-
23 SELING, INFORMATION, AND SERVICES IN SERVICE
24 RECORDS.—A notation on the receipt of counseling and
25 instruction on each matter specified in subsections (f) and

1 (h) in connection with the furnishing of covered coun-
2 seling, information, and services under the program under
3 this section, signed by the member concerned, shall be
4 placed in the service record of each member receiving such
5 counseling and instruction.

6 “(j) USE OF PERSONNEL AND ORGANIZATIONS.—In
7 carrying out the program under this section, the admin-
8 istering Secretaries may—

9 “(1) provide for the use of disabled veterans
10 outreach program specialists, local veterans’ employ-
11 ment representatives, and other employment service
12 personnel funded by the Department of Labor to the
13 extent that the Secretary of Labor determines that
14 such use will not significantly interfere with the pro-
15 vision of services or other benefits to eligible vet-
16 erans and other eligible recipients of such services or
17 benefits;

18 “(2) use military and civilian personnel of the
19 Department of Defense and the Department of
20 Homeland Security;

21 “(3) use personnel of the Veterans Benefits Ad-
22 ministration of the Department of Veterans Affairs
23 and other appropriate personnel of that Department;

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

1 “(5) enter into contracts with public entities;

2 “(6) enter into contracts with private entities,
3 particularly with qualified private entities that have
4 experience with instructing members of the armed
5 forces eligible for covered counseling, information,
6 and services under the program on—

7 “(A) private sector culture, resume writ-
8 ing, career networking, and training on job
9 search technologies;

10 “(B) academic readiness and educational
11 opportunities; and

12 “(C) such other matters in connection with
13 the program as the administering Secretaries
14 consider appropriate; and

15 “(7) take such other actions to develop and fur-
16 nish information and services to be provided under
17 the program as the administering Secretaries con-
18 sider appropriate.

19 “(k) REPORTS AND NOTICE IN CONNECTION WITH
20 PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS.—

21 “(1) INFORMATION WITHIN EXECUTIVE
22 BRANCH.—The Secretary of Defense and the Sec-
23 retary of Homeland Security shall each ensure that
24 information on participation in the program under
25 this section by members under the jurisdiction of

1 such Secretary (including timeliness of receipt of
2 covered counseling, information, and services, rates
3 of participation on an in-person basis and an online
4 or other electronic basis, and number of waivers (if
5 any) issued pursuant to subsection (e)(2)) is made
6 available by electronic means to the following:

7 “(A) Commanders at all levels of command
8 at the installations concerned.

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

11 “(C) The Secretary of Labor, the Sec-
12 retary of Veterans Affairs, and the heads of any
13 other departments and agencies of the Federal
14 Government involved in the furnishing of coun-
15 seling and other assistance under the program.

16 “(2) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of De-
18 fense and the Secretary of Homeland Security
19 shall each submit to Congress each year a re-
20 port on the furnishing of covered counseling, in-
21 formation, and services under the program to
22 members of the armed forces under the juris-
23 diction of such Secretary during the preceding
24 year. Each report shall include, for the year
25 covered by such report, the following:

1 “(i) The number of members eligible
2 for covered counseling, information, and
3 services under the program.

4 “(ii) The number of members fur-
5 nished covered counseling, information,
6 and services under the program.

7 “(iii) The number of members eligible
8 for covered counseling, information, and
9 services under the program who did not
10 participate in the program.

11 “(iv) An assessment of the extent to
12 which such counseling, information, and
13 services were furnished within the times
14 provided for by paragraphs (1) and (2) of
15 subsection (d).

16 “(v) Rates of participation on an in-
17 person basis and an online or other elec-
18 tronic basis, and number of waivers (if
19 any) issued pursuant to subsection (e)(2).

20 “(vi) The number of members placed
21 into each counseling pathway established
22 under subsection (g).

23 “(vii) The number of members who
24 received instruction in each of the post-

1 service pathways described in subsection
2 (h)(3).

3 “(viii) The number of members who
4 participated in an apprenticeship or pre-
5 apprenticeship program described in sub-
6 section (h)(6).

7 “(ix) 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 “(x) Such other information as is re-
14 quired to provide Congress with a com-
15 prehensive description of the participation
16 of 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 “(l) 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 “(m) JOINT SERVICE TRANSCRIPT.—The Secretary
13 concerned shall provide a copy of the joint service tran-
14 script of a member of the armed forces to the following:

15 “(1) The member—

16 “(A) at the preliminary meeting with a
17 counselor under the program under this section
18 pursuant to subsection (h)(1); and

19 “(B) on the day the member retires, sepa-
20 rates, or is released from the armed forces.

21 “(2) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the
22 day the member retires, separates, or is released
23 from the armed forces.”.

1 to be taken to implement any modifications to the
2 Transition Assistance Program under section 1142
3 of title 10, United States Code, that are required by
4 reason of the amendments made by subsection (a).

5 (3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the
6 terms “administering Secretaries” and “covered
7 counseling, information, and services” have the
8 meanings given such terms for purposes of section
9 1142 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by
10 subsection (a).

11 **SEC. 3. CONNECTIONS OF MEMBERS RETIRING OR SEPA-**
12 **RATING FROM THE ARMED FORCES WITH**
13 **COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND**
14 **RELATED ENTITIES.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense and the
16 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly seek to enter
17 into memoranda of understanding (MOUs) or other agree-
18 ments with State veterans agencies under which informa-
19 tion from Department of Defense Form DD–2648 on indi-
20 viduals undergoing retirement, discharge, or release from
21 the Armed Forces is transmitted to one or more State vet-
22 erans agencies, as elected by such individuals, to provide
23 or connect veterans to benefits or services as follows:

- 24 (1) Assistance in preparation of resumes.
25 (2) Training for employment interviews.

1 (3) Employment recruitment training.

2 (4) Other services leading directly to a success-
3 ful transition from military life to civilian life.

4 (5) Healthcare, including care for mental
5 health.

6 (6) Transportation or transportation-related
7 services.

8 (7) Housing.

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

12 (b) INFORMATION TRANSMITTED.—The information
13 transmitted on individuals as described in subsection (a)
14 shall be such information on Form DD–2648 as the Secre-
15 taries jointly consider appropriate to facilitate community-
16 based organizations and related entities in providing or
17 connecting such individuals to benefits and services as de-
18 scribed in subsection (a).

19 (c) MODIFICATION OF FORM DD–2648.—The Sec-
20 retary of Defense shall make such modifications to Form
21 DD–2648 as the Secretary considers appropriate to allow
22 an individual filling out the form to indicate an email ad-
23 dress at which the individual may be contacted to receive
24 or be connected to benefits or services described in sub-
25 section (a).

1 (d) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—Information on an
2 individual may be transmitted to and through a State vet-
3 erans agency as described in subsection (a) only with the
4 consent of the individual. In giving such consent, an indi-
5 vidual shall specify the following:

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

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

11 (3) Such other information on the individual as
12 the individual considers appropriate in connection
13 with the transmittal.

14 (e) DATABASE ON ORGANIZATIONS AND ENTITIES.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
16 Affairs shall, in coordination with the Secretary of
17 Defense and State veterans agencies, establish and
18 maintain a database of community-based programs
19 and related entities that State veterans agencies may
20 provide or connect veterans to benefits and services
21 described in subsection (a).

22 (2) ACCESS.—Access to the database shall be
23 provided to the following:

1 (A) Members of the Armed Forces who are
2 retiring, separating, or being released from the
3 Armed Forces.

4 (B) Veterans.

5 (3) INFORMATION FOR DATABASE.—In devel-
6 oping the database required by paragraph (1), the
7 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall use information
8 obtained by the Secretary pursuant to section 401 of
9 the Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018
10 (Public Law 115–407).

11 **SEC. 4. PERSONNEL MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH TRAN-**
12 **SITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

13 (a) MINIMUM NUMBER OF DEDICATED PER-
14 SONNEL.—

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

1 requirement in this paragraph through the use of con-
2 tractor personnel.

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

7 (b) MINIMUM CIVILIAN WORKPLACE REQUIRE-
8 MENT.—

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

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

1 in civilian employment at the time of employment by
2 the Department for that purpose.

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

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

12 (1) the actions taken to implement subsection
13 (b);

14 (2) the number of individuals employed by the
15 Department under subsection (b);

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

19 (4) such other information as the Secretary
20 considers appropriate.

21 (d) TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DEFINED.—
22 In this section, the term “Transition Assistance Program”
23 means the program of counseling, information, and serv-
24 ices under section 1142 of title 10, United States Code
25 (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, ap-
10 plicable across the Armed Forces, in order to collect,
11 assemble, and make available as described in para-
12 graph (2) information on the participation and
13 progress of members of the Armed Forces under the
14 jurisdiction of such Secretary in the Transition As-
15 sistance Program at the individual, installation, and
16 total forces levels, including information on the fol-
17 lowing:

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

23 (B) Participation and completion by mem-
24 bers of the specific elements of the Transition
25 Assistance Program described in subsection (h)
26 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 assessments of the
19 member concerned taken pursuant to clauses (i)
20 and (v) of subsection (h)(1)(A) of section 1142
21 of title 10, United States Code (as amended by
22 section 2 of this Act).

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

1 in subsection (h)(1)(A)(vi) 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(a).

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 United States Code (as amended by section 2 of
2 this Act).

3 (C) Member assessments of the adequacy
4 of courses and services to meet member transi-
5 tion needs.

6 (D) Obstacles or barriers confronted by
7 members in accessing counseling and services.

8 (E) Whether members participated in the
9 curriculum of the Transition Assistance Pro-
10 gram on an in-person basis or an online, other
11 electronic, or other basis.

12 (F) Such other matters as the admin-
13 istering Secretaries shall specify for purposes of
14 this subsection.

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

19 (b) PILOT PROGRAM ON SURVEYS ON MEMBER EX-
20 PERIENCES IN TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN LIFE.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
22 Affairs shall, in consultation with the Secretary of
23 Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the
24 Secretary of Education, and the Secretary of Labor,
25 conduct a pilot program to assess the feasibility and

1 advisability of surveying veterans who have been re-
2 tired, discharged, or released from the Armed Forces
3 for at least one year, and not longer than four years,
4 at the time of a survey in order to assess the experi-
5 ences of such veterans in the transition from mili-
6 tary life to civilian life.

7 (2) MANNER OF CONDUCT.—The Secretary of
8 Veterans Affairs may conduct the survey under the
9 pilot program through a contract with a qualified
10 non-governmental organization selected by the Sec-
11 retary for purposes of the pilot program.

12 (3) ELEMENTS.—The survey under the pilot
13 program shall be designed to obtain the information
14 on the following:

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

17 (B) Receipt, whether currently or in the
18 past, of unemployment benefits.

19 (C) Educational attainment after military
20 service.

21 (D) Participation of or membership in a
22 veterans' service organization or other support
23 or other group oriented towards veterans.

24 (E) Satisfaction with transition, including
25 satisfaction with counseling and assistance re-

1 ceived in connection with transition (whether
2 pursuant to the Transition Assistance Program
3 or a program under any other provision of law).

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

8 (G) Challenges faced during transition.

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

10 (i) participation of spouse in the coun-
11 seling and assistance described in subpara-
12 graph (E); and

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

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

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

1 (K) Such other matters as the Secretary of
2 Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the other
3 Secretaries referred to in paragraph (1), con-
4 siders appropriate.

5 (4) SURVEY RESULTS.—The results of the sur-
6 vey under the pilot program shall be broken out by
7 number of years post-separation of the veterans cov-
8 ered by the survey.

9 (5) REPORT.—Not later than two years after
10 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
11 of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate
12 committees of Congress a report on the pilot pro-
13 gram. The report shall set forth the following:

14 (A) The results of the survey conducted
15 under the pilot program.

16 (B) An assessment by the Secretary of the
17 feasibility and advisability of continuing surveys
18 such as the survey under the pilot program on
19 a permanent basis, as frequently as once every
20 two years or such other frequency as the Sec-
21 retary considers appropriate.

22 (c) PROTECTION OF PRIVACY.—In carrying out this
23 section, the administering Secretaries, the Secretary of
24 Education, and the Secretaries concerned shall take all
25 necessary and appropriate actions to protect the personal

1 privacy of individual members of the Armed Forces and
2 veterans as required by law.

3 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

11 (3) The term “administering Secretaries” has
12 the meaning given that term for purposes of section
13 1142 of title 10, United States Code (as so amend-
14 ed).

15 **SEC. 7. COMMAND MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH TRANSI-**
16 **TION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.**

17 (a) INCLUSION OF SUPPORT FOR PARTICIPATION IN
18 PROGRAMS IN COMMAND CLIMATE ASSESSMENTS.—Each
19 command climate assessment for the commander of a mili-
20 tary installation shall include an assessment of the extent
21 to which the commander and other command personnel
22 at the installation encourage and support the participation
23 in covered transition assistance programs of members of
24 the Armed Forces at the installation who are eligible for
25 participation in such programs.

1 (b) TRAINING ON PROGRAMS.—The training provided
2 a commander of a military installation in connection with
3 the commencement of assignment to the installation shall
4 include a module on the covered transition assistance pro-
5 grams available for members of the Armed Forces as-
6 signed to the installation.

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

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

15 (2) The programs under section 1143(e) of title
16 10, United States Code (commonly referred to as
17 “Job Training, Employment Skills, Apprenticeships
18 and Internships (JTEST–AI)” or “Skill Bridge”).

19 (3) Any other program of apprenticeship, on-
20 the-job training, internship, or transition assistance
21 specified by the Secretary of Defense for purposes of
22 this section.

1 **SEC. 8. COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES**
2 **REPORT ON PARTICIPATION IN TRANSITION**
3 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AT SMALL AND RE-**
4 **MOTE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.**

5 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 18 months
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comp-
7 troller General of the United States shall submit to the
8 appropriate committees of Congress a report on a review,
9 conducted by the Comptroller General for purposes of the
10 report, on the participation in covered transition assist-
11 ance programs of members of the Armed Forces assigned
12 to small military installations and remote military installa-
13 tions in the United States.

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

17 (1) The Transition Assistance Program.

18 (2) The programs under section 1143(e) of title
19 10, United States Code (commonly referred to as
20 “Job Training, Employment Skills, Apprenticeships
21 and Internships (JTEST–AI)” or “Skill Bridge”).

22 (3) Any other program of apprenticeship, on-
23 the-job training, or internship offered at a small
24 military installation or remote installation that the
25 Comptroller General considers appropriate for inclu-
26 sion in the review under this section.

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

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

6 (2) A remote military installation is an installa-
7 tion that is located more than 50 miles from any
8 city with a population of 50,000 people or more (as
9 determined by the Office of Management and Budg-
10 et).

11 (d) SCOPE OF REVIEW.—In conducting the review,
12 the Comptroller General shall evaluate participation in
13 covered transition assistance programs at a number of
14 small military installations and remote military installa-
15 tions that is sufficient to provide a complete under-
16 standing of the participation in such programs of members
17 of the Armed Forces at such installations throughout the
18 United States.

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

21 (1) Rates of participation of members of the
22 Armed Forces in covered transition assistance pro-
23 grams at small military installations and remote
24 military installations in the United States.

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

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

7 (B) A comparison between rates of partici-
8 pation in person and rates of participation on
9 line.

10 (C) The average ratio of permanent, full-
11 time equivalent program staff to participating
12 members at small military installations and at
13 remote military installations.

14 (D) The average number of program staff
15 (including full-time equivalent staff and con-
16 tractor staff) physically and permanently lo-
17 cated on installation at small military installa-
18 tions and at remote military installations.

19 (3) Such other matters with respect to partici-
20 pation in covered transition assistance programs of
21 members assigned to small military installations and
22 remote military installations as the Comptroller Gen-
23 eral considers appropriate.

24 (f) TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DEFINED.—

25 In this section, the term “Transition Assistance Program”

1 means the program of counseling, information, and serv-
2 ices under section 1142 of title 10, United States Code
3 (as amended by section 2 of this Act).

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

7 (a) PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION REQUIRED.—

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

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

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

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

19 “(1) Information on the transition plan as de-
20 scribed in section 1142(h)(1)(A)(vi) of this title.

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

1 “(A) programs of education, certification,
2 training, and employment assistance (including
3 programs under sections 1143(e), 2007, and
4 2015 of this title); and

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

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

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

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

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

20 “(2) Upon arrival at any subsequent duty sta-
21 tion.

22 “(3) Upon deployment.

23 “(4) Upon promotion.

24 “(5) Upon reenlistment.

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

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

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

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

16 (b) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than
17 one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
18 Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate com-
19 mittees of Congress a report on the program of education
20 required by section 2015a of title 10, United States Code
21 (as added by subsection (a)), including the following:

22 (1) A comprehensive description of the actions
23 taken to implement the program of education.

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

3 **SEC. 10. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON TRANSITION ASSISTANCE**
4 **PROGRAM AND OTHER TRANSITION-RELATED**
5 **ASSISTANCE FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED**
6 **FORCES.**

7 It is the sense of Congress—

8 (1) to acknowledge that the Armed Forces face
9 significant and often competing pressures in car-
10 rying out its essential and fundamental mission to
11 defend the nation;

12 (2) that ensuring the effective transition of
13 members of the Armed Forces from military life to
14 civilian life represents an essential component of this
15 mission, contributing directly to the long-term suc-
16 cess of the United States military and its missions
17 through its effects on—

18 (A) the long-term success and well-being of
19 current and former members of the Armed
20 Forces and their families;

21 (B) the perception of the Armed Forces by
22 the American public; and

23 (C) the civilian-military partnership inte-
24 gral to the United States military;

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

11 (4) to support and commend efforts by the De-
12 partment of Defense, the Department of Labor, and
13 other agencies of the Federal Government in coordi-
14 nating Federal and State efforts to assist members
15 of the Armed Forces in identifying civilian equiva-
16 lences for military occupational skills, but also to
17 urge the Department of Defense to ensure that the
18 Transition Assistance Program also provides mem-
19 bers the tools and assistance for reinventing them-
20 selves during the transition from military life to ci-
21 vilian life, even when their new personal and profes-
22 sional goals do not align with their military occupa-
23 tions;

24 (5) to commend and further encourage efforts
25 to incorporate metrics for compliance with Transi-

1 tion Assistance Program requirements into leader-
2 ship assessments and criteria for promotion of com-
3 manding officers in the Armed Forces;

4 (6) to encourage the Secretary of Defense to as-
5 sign accountability and responsibility for compliance
6 with Transition Assistance Program requirements to
7 the lowest level of command appropriate and to es-
8 tablish uniform, Armed Forces-wide policy on the in-
9 dividuals at unit level who are responsible for moni-
10 toring compliance of members of the Armed Forces
11 with such requirements;

12 (7) that the Secretary of Defense should seek to
13 enhance collaboration and access to transition-re-
14 lated services by members of the Armed Forces by
15 seeking to co-locate Federal, State, and local offi-
16 cials and contractors who administer the Transition
17 Assistance Program and State and local officials and
18 partner, non-governmental entities associated with
19 the Transition Assistance Program or who offer
20 transition-related services in the same or proximate
21 physical locations, when possible;

22 (8) that the Secretary of Defense and the Sec-
23 retary of Labor should seek to minimize subjectivity
24 in career readiness metrics under the Transition As-
25 sistance Program in accordance with recommenda-

1 tions of the Comptroller General of the United
2 States; and

3 (9) to encourage the Department of Defense,
4 the Department of Labor, the Department of Vet-
5 erans Affairs and appropriate State agencies to work
6 together, and with veterans service organizations, to
7 establish in States or locales, as appropriate, local
8 points of contact responsible for—

9 (A) at the election of members of the
10 Armed Forces relocating to such State or locale
11 after military service, contacting the members
12 before separation from the Armed Forces;

13 (B) providing members of the Armed
14 Force with employment, education, and other
15 appropriate information about the State or lo-
16 cale to assist in relocation; and

17 (C) coordinating services for members of
18 the Armed Forces and the spouses who relocate
19 to the State or locale after military service.

○