

Calendar No. 85

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 894

To identify and refer members of the Armed Forces with a health care occupation who are separating from the Armed Forces for potential employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 23, 2021

Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Ms. HASSAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

JUNE 24, 2021

Reported by Mr. TESTER, with an amendment

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in *italic*]

A BILL

To identify and refer members of the Armed Forces with a health care occupation who are separating from the Armed Forces for potential employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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 “Hire Veteran Health
3 Heroes Act of 2021”.

4 **SEC. 2. IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL OF MEMBERS OF**
5 **THE ARMED FORCES WITH A HEALTH CARE**
6 **OCCUPATION FOR POTENTIAL EMPLOYMENT**
7 **WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
8 **FAIRS DURING SEPARATION FROM THE**
9 **ARMED FORCES.**

10 (a) **IDENTIFICATION.**—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
11 fairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall
12 identify members of the Armed Forces in a health care
13 occupation during the separation of such members from
14 the Armed Forces.

15 (b) **REFERRAL OF INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS.**—

16 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—If a member of the Armed
17 Forces identified under subsection (a) expresses an
18 interest in working in a health care occupation with-
19 in the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Sec-
20 retary of Veterans Affairs shall refer the member to
21 a recruiter of the Department for consideration of
22 open positions in the specialty and geography of in-
23 terest of the member.

24 (2) **TIMING.**—Any referral of a member of the
25 Armed Forces conducted under paragraph (1) shall

1 be made not earlier than one year before the separa-
 2 tion of the member from the Armed Forces.

3 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Any identification of
 4 a member of the Armed Forces under subsection (a) or
 5 referral of such member under subsection (b) shall not be
 6 construed as a guarantee of employment of such member
 7 with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

8 (d) REPORTS.—Not later than each of one year and
 9 two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
 10 Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the
 11 Secretary of Defense, shall submit to the appropriate com-
 12 mittees of Congress a report on the efficacy of the identi-
 13 fication and referral of separating members of the Armed
 14 Forces under this section.

15 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
 17 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
 18 gress” means—

19 (A) the Committee on Armed Services and
 20 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Sen-
 21 ate; and

22 (B) the Committee on Armed Services and
 23 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the
 24 House of Representatives.

1 ~~(2) HEALTH CARE OCCUPATION.—The term~~
 2 ~~“health care occupation” means an occupation for~~
 3 ~~which an individual may be appointed for employ-~~
 4 ~~ment with the Department of Veterans Affairs under~~
 5 ~~section 7401 of title 38, United States Code.~~

6 **SEC. 2. IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL OF MEMBERS OF**
 7 **THE ARMED FORCES WITH A HEALTH CARE**
 8 **OCCUPATION FOR POTENTIAL EMPLOYMENT**
 9 **WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
 10 **FAIRS DURING SEPARATION FROM THE**
 11 **ARMED FORCES.**

12 *Section 207 of the VA Choice and Quality Employ-*
 13 *ment Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–46; 38 U.S.C. 7401*
 14 *note) is amended to read as follows:*

15 **“SEC. 207. IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL OF MEMBERS**
 16 **OF THE ARMED FORCES WITH A HEALTH**
 17 **CARE OCCUPATION FOR POTENTIAL EMPLOY-**
 18 **MENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
 19 **AFFAIRS DURING SEPARATION FROM THE**
 20 **ARMED FORCES.**

21 “(a) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs,*
 22 *in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall establish*
 23 *a program to identify and refer members of the Armed*
 24 *Forces with a health care occupation for employment with*

1 *the Department of Veterans Affairs during the separation*
 2 *of such members from the Armed Forces.*

3 “(b) *REFERRAL OF INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS.*—

4 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*If a member of the Armed*
 5 *Forces identified under subsection (a) expresses an in-*
 6 *terest in working in a health care occupation within*
 7 *the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of*
 8 *Veterans Affairs shall refer the member to a recruiter*
 9 *of the Department for consideration of open positions*
 10 *in the specialty and geography of interest to the mem-*
 11 *ber.*

12 “(2) *TIMING.*—*Any referral of a member of the*
 13 *Armed Forces conducted under paragraph (1) shall be*
 14 *made not earlier than one year before the separation*
 15 *of the member from the Armed Forces.*

16 “(c) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.*—*Any identification of*
 17 *a member of the Armed Forces under subsection (a) or refer-*
 18 *ral of such member under subsection (b) shall not be con-*
 19 *strued as a guarantee of employment of such member with*
 20 *the Department of Veterans Affairs.*

21 “(d) *REPORTS.*—*Not later than each of one year and*
 22 *two years after the date of the enactment of the Hire Vet-*
 23 *eran Health Heroes Act of 2021, the Secretary of Veterans*
 24 *Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-*

1 *gress a report on the program established under subsection*
 2 *(a).*

3 “(e) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

4 “(1) *APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-*
 5 *GRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of Con-*
 6 *gress’ means—*

7 “(A) *the Committee on Armed Services and*
 8 *the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate;*
 9 *and*

10 “(B) *the Committee on Armed Services and*
 11 *the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House*
 12 *of Representatives.*

13 “(2) *HEALTH CARE OCCUPATION.—The term*
 14 *‘health care occupation’ means an occupation for*
 15 *which an individual may be appointed for employ-*
 16 *ment with the Department of Veterans Affairs under*
 17 *section 7401 of title 38, United States Code.”.*

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