

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9870

To improve the provision of benefits and services to members of the Ready Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

Mr. LANDSMAN (for himself and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Accountability, Veterans' Affairs, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To improve the provision of benefits and services to members of the Ready Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Parity for Public
5 Health Service Ready Reserve Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE READY RESERVE CORPS**
2 **(PHS RRC).**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 10141 of title 10,
4 United States Code, is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “in each
6 armed force” and inserting “in each uniformed serv-
7 ice”; and

8 (2) in subsection (c), striking “the same for all
9 armed forces” and inserting “the same for all re-
10 serve components of the uniformed services”.

11 (b) ORGANIZATION AND UNIT STRUCTURE.—Section
12 10143(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (1)—

14 (A) by inserting “and the Public Health
15 Service Ready Reserve Corps” after “other than
16 the Coast Guard”; and

17 (B) by striking “war plans; and” and in-
18 serting “war plans;”;

19 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at
20 the end and inserting “; and”; and

21 (3) by adding at the end the following new
22 paragraph:

23 “(3) in the case of the Public Health Service
24 Ready Reserve Corps, by the Secretary of Health
25 and Human Services upon the recommendation of
26 the Assistant Secretary for Health.”.

1 (c) PLACEMENT IN READY RESERVES.—Section
2 10145(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by
3 striking “Ready Reserve of his armed force for his pre-
4 scribed term of service, unless he is transferred” and in-
5 serting “Ready Reserve of the reserve component of the
6 member’s uniformed service for his or her prescribed term
7 of service, unless such member is transferred”.

8 (d) STANDBY RESERVES.—

9 (1) TRANSFERS TO.—Section 10146 of title 10,
10 United States Code, is amended—

11 (A) in subsection (a), by inserting “and
12 the Secretary of Health and Human Services
13 with respect to Public Health Service Ready
14 Reserve Corps” after “operating as a service in
15 the Navy”; and

16 (B) in subsection (b), by inserting “or the
17 Secretary of Health and Human Services, as
18 the case may be,” after “prescribed by the Sec-
19 retary concerned”.

20 (2) TRANSFERS FROM.—Section 10150 of title
21 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting
22 “and the Secretary of Health and Human Services
23 with respect to Public Health Service Ready Reserve
24 Corps” after “operating as a service in the Navy”.

1 (3) TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.—Section
2 10147(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amend-
3 ed—

4 (A) by striking “in an armed force” and
5 inserting “in a uniformed service”; and

6 (B) by inserting “and the Secretary of
7 Health and Human Services with respect to
8 Public Health Service Ready Reserve Corps”
9 after “operating as a service in the Navy”.

10 (4) FAILURE TO SATISFACTORILY PERFORM
11 PRESCRIBED TRAINING.—Section 10148(a) of title
12 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting “or
13 the Secretary of Health and Human Services with
14 respect to Public Health Service Ready Reserve
15 Corps” after “Secretary of Defense”.

16 (e) INACTIVE STATUS LIST.—Section 10152 of title
17 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “armed
18 force” and inserting “uniformed service”.

19 (f) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

20 (1) AUTHORIZED END STRENGTH OF THE
21 READY RESERVES OF THE ARMED FORCES.—Section
22 10142 of title 10, United States Code, is amended
23 by inserting “of the armed forces” after “Ready Re-
24 serve” both places it appears.

1 (2) CONTINUOUS SCREENING PROVISIONS AP-
 2 PLICABLE TO ARMED FORCES.—Section 10149 of
 3 title 10, United States Code, is amended—

4 (A) in subsection (a), by inserting “or, in
 5 the case of the Public Health Service Ready Re-
 6 serve Corps, the Secretary of Health and
 7 Human Services,” after “Secretary concerned”;
 8 and

9 (B) in subsection (b)(2)(A), by inserting
 10 “or, in the case of a Member of Congress who
 11 also is a member of the Public Health Service
 12 Ready Reserve Corps, the Secretary of Health
 13 and Human Services” after “operating as a
 14 service in the Navy”.

15 (3) COMPOSITION OF STANDBY RESERVES OF
 16 ARMED FORCES.—Section 10151 of title 10, United
 17 States Code, is amended by inserting “of the armed
 18 forces” after “The Standby Reserve”.

19 **SEC. 3. DUAL COMPENSATION PARITY FOR READY RE-**
 20 **SERVE CORPS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERV-**
 21 **ICE.**

22 (a) DUAL EMPLOYMENT.—Section 5534 of title 5,
 23 United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by inserting “, a member of the Ready Re-
 2 serve Corps of the Public Health Service,” after
 3 “armed forces”; and

4 (2) by inserting “, member of the Ready Re-
 5 serve Corps,” after “allowances as a Reserve”.

6 (b) UNIFORMED SERVICE LEAVE.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 6323 of title 5,
 8 United States Code, is amended—

9 (A) in the section heading, by striking
 10 **“Military leave; Reserves and Na-**
 11 **tional Guardsmen”** and inserting **“Uni-**
 12 **formed services leave”**;

13 (B) in subsection (b)—

14 (i) in paragraph (1)—

15 (I) by striking “or the National
 16 Guard” and inserting the following:
 17 “the National Guard”; and

18 (II) by inserting “, or the Ready
 19 Reserve Corps of the Public Health
 20 Service” after “of title 32”; and

21 (ii) in paragraph (2)—

22 (I) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by
 23 striking “or” at the end;

1 (II) in subparagraph (B), by in-
2 serting “or” after the semicolon at the
3 end; and

4 (III) by inserting after subpara-
5 graph (B) the following:

6 “(C) in the case of a member of the Ready Re-
7 serve Corps of the Public Health Service, performs
8 services as a result of a deployment to respond to an
9 urgent or emergency public health need, as defined
10 in section 203A(a) of the Public Health Service Act
11 (42 U.S.C. 204a(a));”; and

12 (C) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(e)(1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection,
14 an employee as defined by section 2105 of this title or
15 an individual employed by the Government of the District
16 of Columbia is entitled to leave without loss in pay, time,
17 or performance or efficiency rating for active duty or inac-
18 tive-duty training (as defined in section 101 of title 37)
19 as a member of the Ready Reserve Corps of the Public
20 Health Service. Leave under this subsection accrues for
21 an employee or individual at the rate of 15 days per fiscal
22 year and, to the extent that it is not used in a fiscal year,
23 accumulates for use in the succeeding fiscal year until it
24 totals 15 days at the beginning of a fiscal year.

1 “(2) In the case of an employee or individual em-
 2 ployed on a part-time career employment basis (as defined
 3 in section 3401(2) of this title), the rate at which leave
 4 accrues under this subsection shall be a percentage of the
 5 rate prescribed under paragraph (1) which is determined
 6 by dividing 40 into the number of hours in the regularly
 7 scheduled workweek of that employee or individual during
 8 that fiscal year.

9 “(3) The minimum charge for leave under this sub-
 10 section is one hour, and additional charges are in multiples
 11 thereof.”.

12 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of
 13 sections for chapter 63 of title 5, United States
 14 Code, is amended by striking the item relating to
 15 section 6323 and inserting the following:

“6323. Uniformed services leave.”.

16 **SEC. 4. CLARIFICATION OF ENTITLEMENT TO POST-9/11**
 17 **EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR SERVICE ON**
 18 **ACTIVE DUTY IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.**

19 (a) CLARIFICATION.—Section 3301(1) of title 38,
 20 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
 21 following new subparagraphs:

22 “(D) In the case of members of the regular
 23 components of the Commissioned Corps of the
 24 Public Health Service, the meaning given such
 25 term in section 101(21)(B).

1 “(E) In the case of members of the reserve
2 component of the Commissioned Corps of the
3 Public Health Service, service on active duty
4 under a call or order to active duty under sub-
5 paragraph (B), (C), or (D) of section 203(c)(2)
6 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
7 204(c)(2)) or section 216 of such Act (42
8 U.S.C. 217).”.

9 (b) ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION.—Section 3311 of
10 such title is amended—

11 (1) in the section heading by striking “**in the**
12 **Armed Forces**” and inserting “**in the uni-**
13 **formed services**”;

14 (2) in subsection (b), in paragraphs (1) through
15 (11), by striking “Armed Forces” each place it ap-
16 pears and inserting “uniformed services”;

17 (3) in subsection (c), by striking “Armed
18 Forces” each place it appears and inserting “uni-
19 formed services”;

20 (4) in subsection (d)(3)(A), by striking “Armed
21 Forces” and inserting “uniformed services”; and

22 (5) in subsection (f)(4)(B)(ii), by striking
23 “Armed Forces” and inserting “uniformed services”.

1 (c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by sub-
 2 sections (a) and (b) shall apply with respect to service oc-
 3 ccurring on or after March 27, 2020.

4 (d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 5 at the beginning of chapter 33 of such title is amended
 6 by striking the item relating to section 3311 and inserting
 7 the following new item:

“3311. Educational assistance for service in the uniformed services commencing
 on or after September 11, 2001: entitlement.”.

8 (e) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 101 of such
 9 title is amended, in paragraphs (21) through (23), by
 10 striking “Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service”
 11 each place it appears and inserting “Ready Reserve Corps
 12 of the Public Health Service”.

13 **SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS**
 14 **TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERV-**
 15 **ICE READY RESERVE CORPS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 16131 of title 10, United
 17 States Code, is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (a)—

19 (A) by striking “each military department”
 20 and inserting “the reserve component of that
 21 Secretary’s uniformed service”;

22 (B) by striking “and” after “Secretary of
 23 Defense,”;

1 (C) by inserting “, and the Secretary of
2 Health and Human Services with respect to the
3 Public Health Service Ready Reserve Corps,”
4 after “Navy”; and

5 (D) by striking “of the armed forces under
6 the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned” and
7 inserting “of the uniformed services under the
8 jurisdiction of such Secretary”;

9 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “or the
10 Secretary of Health and Human Services, as the
11 case may be” after “Secretary concerned”;

12 (3) in subsection (c)(3)(B)(i), by inserting “or
13 section 203 of the Public Health Service Act (42
14 U.S.C. 204(a)(4))” after “of this title”;

15 (4) in subsection (g)(2)(A), by inserting “or the
16 Secretary of Health and Human Services, as the
17 case may be” after “Secretary concerned”; and

18 (5) in subsection (i)—

19 (A) by inserting “or the Secretary of
20 Health and Human Services, as the case may
21 be,” after “Secretary of Defense” each place it
22 appears; and

23 (B) by inserting “or the Secretary of
24 Health and Human Services, as the case may

1 be,” after “Secretary concerned” each place it
2 appears.

3 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 16132(c) of title 10,
4 United States Code, is amended by inserting “or the Sec-
5 retary of Health and Human Services, as the case may
6 be,” after “Secretary of Defense”.

7 (c) AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER UNUSED EDUCATION
8 BENEFITS TO FAMILY MEMBERS.—Section 16132a of
9 title 10, United States Code, is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “or the Sec-
11 retary of Health and Human Services, as the case
12 may be,” after “Secretary concerned”;

13 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “member of
14 the armed forces” and inserting “member of the re-
15 serve component of such member’s uniformed serv-
16 ice”;

17 (3) in subsection (d), by inserting “and the Sec-
18 retary of Health and Human Services” after “Sec-
19 retary of Defense”;

20 (4) in subsection (f)(2), by inserting “or the
21 Secretary of Health and Human Services, as the
22 case may be,” after “Secretary concerned”;

23 (5) in subsection (g), by striking “armed
24 forces” and inserting “uniformed services” both
25 places it appears;

1 (6) in subsection (h)(5)(B)—

2 (A) by inserting “or the Secretary of
3 Health and Human Services, as the case may
4 be,” after “Secretary concerned”; and

5 (B) by inserting “or a member of the Pub-
6 lic Health Service Commissioned Corps, as the
7 case may be” after “enlisted member”; and

8 (7) in subsection (j), by inserting “and the Sec-
9 retary of Health and Human Services” after “Sec-
10 retary of Defense”.

11 (d) FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE SATISFACTORILY;
12 PENALTIES.—Section 16135(a) of title 10, United States
13 Code, is amended—

14 (1) by inserting “or the Secretary of Health
15 and Human Services, as the case may be” after
16 “Secretary concerned”; and

17 (2) by striking “of an armed force” and insert-
18 ing “of a uniformed service”.

19 (e) ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM.—Section
20 16136(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

21 (1) by striking “and by the Secretary of Home-
22 land Security” and inserting “by the Secretary of
23 Homeland Security, and by the Secretary of Health
24 and Human Services”; and

1 (2) by inserting “or the Secretary of Health
2 and Human Services, as the case may be,” after
3 “Secretary concerned”.

4 (f) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by sub-
5 sections (a) through (e) shall apply with respect to service
6 occurring on or after March 27, 2020.

7 **SEC. 6. ADDITIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 221(a) of the Public
9 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 213a(a)) is amended by
10 adding at the end the following:

11 “(22) Chapter 40, Leave, except that section
12 701(b) shall be applied and administered by sub-
13 stituting ‘120 days’ leave’ for ‘60 days’ leave’.

14 “(23) Section 982, Members: service on State
15 and local juries.

16 “(24) Section 1145, Health benefits.

17 “(25) Section 1076a, TRICARE dental pro-
18 gram.

19 “(26) Section 1076d, TRICARE program:
20 TRICARE Reserve Select coverage for members of
21 the Selected Reserve.

22 “(27) Section 1076e, TRICARE program:
23 TRICARE Retired Reserve coverage for certain
24 members of the Retired Reserve who are qualified
25 for a non-regular retirement but are not yet age 60.

1 “(28) Section 1057, Use of armed forces insignia on State license plates.

3 “(29) Section 1094, Licensure requirement for health-care professionals.

5 “(30) Section 987, Terms of consumer credit extended to members and dependents: limitations.

7 “(31) Section 1074, Medical and dental care for members and certain former members.

9 “(32) Section 1074a, Medical and dental care: members on duty other than active duty for a period of more than 30 days.”.

12 (b) REPEAL.—Section 219 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 210–1) is repealed.

14 **SEC. 7. EXPANSION OF RESERVE FORCES POLICY BOARD**
 15 **TO INCLUDE REPRESENTATION OF PUBLIC**
 16 **HEALTH SERVICE.**

17 Section 10301(c) of title 10, United States Code, is
 18 amended—

19 (1) in the matter before paragraph (1), by
 20 striking “20 members” and inserting “21 mem-
 21 bers”; and

22 (2) by adding at the end the following new
 23 paragraph:

24 “(9) One active or retired officer of the Ready
 25 Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service Commis-

1 sioned Corps or one civilian, appointed by the Sec-
2 retary of Health and Human Services.”.

3 **SEC. 8. FUNDING OF READY RESERVE CORPS.**

4 Section 203(d) of the Public Health Service Act (42
5 U.S.C. 204(d)) is amended by striking “\$12,500,000 for
6 each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014” and inserting
7 “\$13,600,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 and 2025”.

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