

115<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 5938

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 25, 2018

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## AN ACT

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Serving Vet-  
5 erans Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. RECRUITMENT DATABASE.**

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

10           (1) In subsection (a)—

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

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

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

20                   (D) by adding after paragraph (2) the fol-  
21                   lowing new paragraph:

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

24                           “(A) the military occupational specialty or  
25                           skill that corresponds to the position, as deter-

1           mined by the Secretary, in consultation with the  
2           Secretary of Defense; and

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

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

10           (3) By inserting after subsection (a) the fol-  
11           lowing new subsections:

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

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

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

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

24           “(c) **AVAILABILITY.**—Information in the database  
25           shall be available to offices, officials, and employees of the

1 Department of Veterans Affairs to the extent the Sec-  
2 retary of Veterans Affairs determines appropriate.

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

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

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

19 (5) In subsection (h), as redesignated in para-  
20 graph (2), by striking “of this Act” and inserting  
21 “of the Veterans Serving Veterans Act of 2018, and  
22 annually thereafter”.

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

1           “(i) QUALIFIED MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES  
2 DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘qualified member of  
3 the Armed Forces’ means a member of the Armed  
4 Forces—

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

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

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

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

21 **SEC. 3. INTERMEDIATE CARE TECHNICIAN TRAINING PRO-**  
22 **GRAM.**

23           (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans  
24 Affairs shall implement a program to train and certify cov-

1 ered veterans to work as intermediate care technicians in  
2 the Department of Veterans Affairs.

3 (b) LOCATIONS.—

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

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

12 (A) the experience and success of the facil-  
13 ity in training intermediate care technicians;  
14 and

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

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

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

22 No additional funds are authorized to be appro-  
23 priated to carry out section 208 of the VA Choice and  
24 Quality Employment Act (Public Law 115–46; 38 U.S.C.  
25 701 note), as amended by section 2 of this Act, or to carry

1 out section 3 of this Act. Such sections shall be carried  
2 out using amounts otherwise authorized to be appro-  
3 priated for such purpose.

4 **SEC. 5. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**

5 No additional funds are authorized to be appro-  
6 priated to carry out the requirements of this Act and the  
7 amendments made by this Act. Such requirements shall  
8 be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized to be  
9 appropriated.

Passed the House of Representatives July 24, 2018.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

*Clerk.*