

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4388

To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide improved benefits training to members of the Armed Forces to enhance retention, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 4, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ (for herself, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. ANDREWS, and Ms. MCKINNEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide improved benefits training to members of the Armed Forces to enhance retention, 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 “Military Retention
5 Benefits Training Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Comptroller General has made
8 the following findings with respect to retention of active-
9 duty military servicemembers:

1 (1) First-term enlistees experience a 33 percent
2 dropout rate.

3 (2) Junior enlisted ranks (pay grades E1–E3)
4 only have a 36 percent satisfaction rate.

5 (3) Basic pay is the number one reason such
6 members give for leaving military service.

7 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to improve
8 retention of members of the Armed Forces by providing
9 for an improved program of education of members of the
10 Armed Forces of all benefits available to them while in
11 the Armed Forces, and after separation from the Armed
12 Forces, that are provided by the Department of Defense
13 or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

14 **SEC. 3. TRAINING IN MILITARY AND VETERANS BENEFITS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Chapter 53 of title 10, United
16 States Code, is amended by inserting before section 1031
17 the following new section:

18 **“§ 1021. Training in military and veterans benefits**

19 “(a) TRAINING REQUIRED.—The Secretary con-
20 cerned shall make available to members of the armed
21 forces under the jurisdiction of the Secretary a program
22 of education and training to inform members of the bene-
23 fits to which members of the armed forces and their de-
24 pendants are entitled or may become entitled upon remain-

1 ing in the armed forces until becoming eligible for retired
2 or retainer pay.

3 “(b) TRAINING QUALIFICATIONS.—Participation by a
4 member of the armed forces in a program of benefits
5 training shall satisfy requirements established by the Sec-
6 retary concerned for—

7 “(1) career development training; and

8 “(2) general military training.

9 “(c) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—Programs of ben-
10 efits training shall include information concerning the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(1) All current benefits provided by the De-
13 partment of Defense, including—

14 “(A) the elements of military compensa-
15 tion, including basic allowance for housing
16 (BAH) and other compensation;

17 “(B) military retired pay;

18 “(C) health care, including TRICARE and
19 CHAMPUS;

20 “(D) spouse and dependent survivor bene-
21 fits;

22 “(E) the Montgomery GI Bill and other
23 education and training opportunities;

24 “(F) morale, welfare, and recreation
25 (MWR) benefits, including commissary and ex-

1 change privileges, child care, and other benefits;
2 and

3 “(G) Armed Forces Retirement Homes.

4 “(2) All benefits provided by the Department of
5 Veterans Affairs, including—

6 “(A) health care;

7 “(B) disability benefits;

8 “(C) education and training;

9 “(D) home loan guarantees;

10 “(E) life insurance;

11 “(F) burial benefits;

12 “(G) survivor benefits; and

13 “(H) overseas benefits.

14 “(d) PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS TRAIN-
15 ING.—Benefits training shall be available to—

16 “(1) all members of the armed forces on active
17 duty or in an active status in a reserve component;
18 and

19 “(2) retired members of the armed forces on a
20 space available basis.

21 “(e) MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS DATABASE.—The
22 Secretary of Defense shall develop and maintain a data-
23 base of information on those servicemembers attending
24 benefits training who volunteer to perform military funeral
25 honors.”.

1 (2) The table of sections at the beginning of such
2 chapter is amended by inserting before the item relating
3 to section 1031 the following new item:

“1021. Training in military and veterans benefits.”.

4 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Section 1021 of title 10,
5 United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take
6 effect on October 1, 2000.

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