

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4173

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to contract for a report on employment placement, retention, and advancement of recently separated servicemembers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 20, 2004

Mr. MICHAUD (for himself, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. EVANS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to contract for a report on employment placement, retention, and advancement of recently separated servicemembers.

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. REPORT OF EMPLOYMENT PLACEMENT, RE-**
4 **TENTION, AND ADVANCEMENT OF RECENTLY**
5 **SEPARATED SERVICEMEMBERS.**

6 (a) CONTRACT FOR REPORT.—The Secretary of Vet-
7 erans Affairs shall enter into a contract with a qualified
8 entity to conduct a study of and prepare a report on the

1 employment histories of recently separated
2 servicemembers.

3 (b) CONTENT OF REPORT.—(1) The study conducted
4 pursuant to subsection (a) shall consist of an analysis of
5 employment-related data that has been collected with re-
6 spect to recently separated servicemembers.

7 (2) In conducting the study, the qualified entity
8 shall—

9 (A) determine whether the employment ob-
10 tained by recently separated servicemembers is com-
11 mensurate with training and education of those
12 servicemembers;

13 (B) determine whether recently separated
14 servicemembers received educational assistance or
15 training and rehabilitation under programs adminis-
16 tered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under
17 chapter 30 or 31 of title 38, United States Code, or
18 under chapter 1606 of title 10, United States Code;

19 (C) determine whether transition assistance
20 services provided to recently separated
21 servicemembers assisted those servicemembers in ob-
22 taining civilian employment;

23 (D) analyze trends in hiring of veterans by the
24 private sector; and

1 (E) identify recently separated servicemembers
2 who have reached senior level management positions.

3 (c) USE OF DATA.—In conducting the study under
4 subsection (a), the qualified entity shall review data com-
5 piled and reported by Bureau of Labor Statistics and shall
6 collect additional data on the employment histories of re-
7 cently separated servicemembers available from such other
8 sources as the qualified entity determines to be appro-
9 priate.

10 (d) CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS.—(1) The contract
11 entered into under subsection (a) shall contain such terms
12 and conditions as the Secretary may require. The contract
13 shall require that the report on the study be submitted
14 to the Secretary not later than 2 years after the date on
15 which the contract was entered into.

16 (2) The report required under subsection (a) shall
17 contain the findings and conclusions of the qualified entity
18 on the study and specific recommendations to improve em-
19 ployment opportunities for veterans recently separated
20 from service in the Armed Forces, including if appropriate
21 recommendations for—

22 (A) the establishment of networks of contacts
23 for employment of such veterans in the private sec-
24 tor;

1 (B) outreach to private sector leaders on the
2 merits and sound business practice of hiring such
3 veterans; and

4 (C) additional methods to facilitate communica-
5 tion between private sector employers and such vet-
6 erans who are seeking employment.

7 (e) FUNDING.—Payment by the Secretary for the
8 contract entered into under subsection (a)—

9 (1) shall be made from the Department of Vet-
10 erans Affairs appropriations account from which
11 payments for compensation and pensions are made;
12 and

13 (2) may not exceed \$490,000.

14 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 (1) The term “qualified entity” means an entity
16 or organization that meets the following require-
17 ments:

18 (A) Demonstrated experience in conducting
19 employment surveys of recently separated
20 servicemembers, including Internet-based sur-
21 veys, that meet such quality assurance require-
22 ments as the Secretary determines appropriate.

23 (B) Demonstrated familiarity with veteran
24 employment matters.

1 (C) Demonstrated ability in developing
2 plans to market veterans as employment assets.

3 (D) Demonstrated ability to acquire serv-
4 ices at no cost from other organizations, such
5 as technology, staff services, and advertising
6 services.

7 (E) Demonstrated ability to develop rela-
8 tionships, establish employment networks, and
9 facilitate interaction between private and public
10 sector leaders and veterans.

11 (2) The term “employment history” means,
12 with respect to a recently separated servicemember,
13 training, placement, retention, and advancement in
14 employment of that servicemember.

15 (3) The term “recently separated
16 servicemember” means any veteran (as defined in
17 section 101(2) of title 38, United States Code) dis-
18 charged or released from active duty in the Armed
19 Forces of the United States during the 16-year pe-
20 riod beginning on January 1, 1990.

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