

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 3859

To provide incentive for employers to hire service-connected disabled veterans and to improve adjustment assistance and job-training transition for injured and disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 6, 2006

Mr. BAUCUS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To provide incentive for employers to hire service-connected disabled veterans and to improve adjustment assistance and job-training transition for injured and disabled veterans, 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 “Help Our Patriots Em-
5 ployment (HOPE) Act of 2006”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) As of July 15, 2006, a total of 19,813
2 members of the Armed Forces of the United States
3 have been wounded in action in Operation Iraqi
4 Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom
5 (OEF).

6 (2) As of July 15, 2006, a total of 3,083 mem-
7 bers of the National Guard have been wounded in
8 action in OIF and OEF.

9 (3) As of July 15, 2006, a total of 1,626 mem-
10 bers of the Reserve have been wounded in action in
11 OIF and OEF.

12 (4) Rural States are carrying a huge burden
13 when it comes to this Nation's current conflicts
14 abroad. Ninety-five percent of America's National
15 Guard combat battalions and special operations have
16 been mobilized since September 11, 2001. When not
17 deployed, many members of the National Guard and
18 Reserve have second and third jobs to make ends
19 meet.

20 (5) Many of these brave servicemen and women
21 are now permanently disabled, and many of them
22 are now unable to perform the jobs they did before
23 deployment because of injury or disability.

24 (6) Since August 2002, the number of veterans
25 collecting unemployment insurance has risen 96 per-

1 cent. In addition, during any given year, 500,000
2 veterans experience homelessness.

3 **SEC. 3. TREATMENT OF DISABLED VETERANS UNDER THE**
4 **WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT.**

5 (a) **DISABLED VETERANS TREATED AS MEMBERS OF**
6 **TARGETED GROUP.—**

7 (1) **IN GENERAL.—**Subparagraph (A) of section
8 51(d)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (re-
9 lating to qualified veteran) is amended by striking
10 “agency as being a member of a family” and all that
11 follows and inserting “agency as—

12 “(i) being a member of a family re-
13 ceiving assistance under a food stamp pro-
14 gram under the Food Stamp Act of 1977
15 for at least a 3-month period ending dur-
16 ing the 12-month period ending on the hir-
17 ing date, or

18 “(ii) entitled to compensation for a
19 service-connected disability.”.

20 (2) **DEFINITIONS.—**Paragraph (3) of section
21 51(d) of such Code is amended by adding at the end
22 the following new subparagraph:

23 “(C) **OTHER DEFINITIONS.—**For purposes
24 of subparagraph (A), the terms ‘compensation’
25 and ‘service-connected’ have the meanings given

1 such terms under section 101 of title 38,
2 United States Code.”.

3 (b) INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF WAGES TAKEN INTO
4 ACCOUNT FOR DISABLED VETERANS.—Paragraph (3) of
5 section 51(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is
6 amended—

7 (1) by inserting “(\$12,000 per year in the case
8 of any individual who is a qualified veteran by rea-
9 son of subsection (d)(3)(A)(ii)” before the period at
10 the end, and

11 (2) by striking “ONLY FIRST \$6,000 OF” in the
12 heading and inserting “LIMITATION ON”.

13 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
14 this section shall apply to individuals who begin work for
15 an employer after December 31, 2005.

16 **SEC. 4. INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL VET-**
17 **ERANS’ EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERV-**
18 **ICES INSTITUTE.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any amounts other-
20 wise appropriated, there is authorized to be appropriated
21 to the Secretary of Labor to operate the National Vet-
22 erans’ Employment and Training Services Institute in ac-
23 cordance with section 4109 of title 38, United States
24 Code, \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009.

1 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Any amounts appropriated pur-
2 suant to the authority of subsection (a) shall remain avail-
3 able until expended.

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