

VETERAN SKILLS TO JOBS ACT

JULY 9, 2012.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. ISSA, from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 4155]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 4155) to direct the head of each Federal department and agency to treat relevant military training as sufficient to satisfy training or certification requirements for Federal licenses, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

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The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veteran Skills to Jobs Act”.

SEC. 2. CONSIDERATION OF RELEVANT MILITARY TRAINING FOR ISSUANCE OF A FEDERAL LICENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of each Federal licensing authority shall consider and may accept, in the case of any individual applying for a license, any relevant train-

ing received by such individual while serving as a member of the armed forces, for the purpose of satisfying the requirements for such license.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this Act—

- (1) the term “license” means a license, certification, or other grant of permission to engage in a particular activity;
- (2) the term “Federal licensing authority” means a department, agency, or other entity of the Government having authority to issue a license;
- (3) the term “armed forces” has the meaning given such term by section 2101(2) of title 5, United States Code; and
- (4) the term “Government” means the Government of the United States.

SEC. 3. REGULATIONS.

The head of each Federal licensing authority shall—

- (1) with respect to any license a licensing authority grants or is empowered to grant as of the date of enactment of this Act, prescribe any regulations necessary to carry out this Act not later than 180 days after such date; and
- (2) with respect to any license of a licensing authority not constituted or not empowered to grant the license as of the date of enactment of this Act, prescribe any regulations necessary to carry out this Act not later than 180 days after the date on which the agency is so constituted or empowered, as the case may be.

COMMITTEE STATEMENT AND VIEWS

PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

H.R. 4155 ensures that any relevant military training of a veteran is taken into account when he applies for a Federal occupational license.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

After 40 months with the unemployment rate above 8 percent, we must do more to create jobs. Veterans who have served in the military since September 11, 2001, face an unemployment rate of 12.7 percent.¹ With one million men and women projected to leave the armed forces over the next five years, this problem becomes more urgent if not addressed. We must better support our veterans as they transition to the civilian workforce. H.R. 4155 will help our veterans return to work more quickly by ensuring that training they received while a member of the Armed Forces is considered when they apply for a Federal license.

While most occupational licenses are issued by the States, the Federal government does grant a number of licenses, most notably in the aerospace, communications, and maritime sectors. Aviation and maritime skills acquired through military training, for example, are readily translatable to many jobs for which employers may require or prefer holders of a federally issued license.

In April 2012, the Defense Business Board issued a report recommending Federal agencies review military training as a qualification for their respective program requirements.² H.R. 4155 is in line with this recommendation.

The bill does not infringe on the jurisdiction of the licensing agency. Instead, it leaves the agency free to determine when military training is sufficient to meet license requirements.

¹ Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Economic News Release, *Employment status of the civilian population 18 years and over by veteran status, period of service, and sex, not seasonally adjusted*, June 2012, <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t05.htm>.

² Defense Business Board, Task Group, *Employing Our Veterans: Expediting Transition Through Concurrent Credentialing*, April 19, 2012, http://dbb.defense.gov/pdf/DBB_Concurrent_Credentialing_Post_Meeting_Brief.pdf.

H.R. 4155 will reduce the licensing burden for qualified veterans, and help civilian employers take better advantage of the talent and unique skills and experience of our returning soldiers.

SECTION-BY-SECTION

Section 1. Short title

Section 1 establishes the short title of the bill as the “Veteran Skills to Jobs Act.”

Section 2. Consideration of relevant military training for issuance of a federal license

Section 2 requires Federal agencies to consider relevant military training when granting a Federal license or certification.

Section 3. Regulations

Section 3 requires each Federal agency with licensure authority to prescribe implementing regulations within six months after the date of enactment.

EXPLANATION OF AMENDMENTS

Mr. Issa offered a substitute amendment making technical corrections to the bill. The amendment was agreed to by voice vote.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

On June 27, 2012, the Committee met in open session and ordered reported favorably the bill, H.R. 4155, as amended, by voice vote, a quorum being present.

ROLLCALL VOTES

No recorded votes were taken during the consideration of H.R. 4155.

APPLICATION OF LAW TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 102(b)(3) of Public Law 104–1 requires a description of the application of this bill to the legislative branch where the bill relates to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services and accommodations. This bill ensures that any relevant military training of a veteran is taken into account when he applies for a Federal occupational license. Legislative branch employees and their families, to the extent that they are otherwise eligible for the benefits provided by this legislation, have equal access to its benefits.

STATEMENT OF OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

In compliance with clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII and clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee’s oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the descriptive portions of this report.

STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In accordance with clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee's performance goals and objectives are reflected in the descriptive portions of this report.

FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT

The Committee finds that the legislation does not establish or authorize the establishment of an advisory committee within the definition of 5 U.S.C. App., Section 5(b).

UNFUNDED MANDATE STATEMENT

Section 423 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act (as amended by Section 101(a)(2) of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, P.L. 104-4) requires a statement as to whether the provisions of the reported bill include unfunded mandates. In compliance with this requirement the Committee has received a letter from the Congressional Budget Office included herein.

EARMARK IDENTIFICATION

H.R. 4155 does not include any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

COMMITTEE ESTIMATE

Clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs that would be incurred in carrying out H.R. 4155. However, clause 3(d)(3)(B) of that rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act.

BUDGET AUTHORITY AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and with respect to requirements of clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for H.R. 4155 from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

JULY 2, 2012.

Hon. DARRELL ISSA,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 4155, the Veteran Skills to Jobs Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Matthew Pickford.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF.

Enclosure.

H.R. 4155—Veteran Skills to Jobs Act

H.R. 4155 would allow federal agencies to consider certain types of military training to be sufficient to satisfy training or certification requirements that an individual may need to obtain a federal license. Examples of such licenses include positions in the aviation and maritime industries. Information from the Department of Transportation indicates that this legislation would expand the department's current programs to assist veterans but would not significantly change its workload. Thus, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4155 would have no significant effect on the federal budget. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

H.R. 4155 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

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