

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2924

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to transmit certain information to personnel of Vet Centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding members of the Armed Forces transitioning from service in the Armed Forces to civilian life, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 4, 2021

Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. CRAMER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to transmit certain information to personnel of Vet Centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding members of the Armed Forces transitioning from service in the Armed Forces to civilian life, 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 “Vet Center Outreach
5 Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION TO VET CENTER**
 2 **PERSONNEL ON MEMBERS OF ARMED**
 3 **FORCES TRANSITIONING FROM SERVICE IN**
 4 **ARMED FORCES TO CIVILIAN LIFE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 17 of
 6 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
 7 end the following new section:

8 **“§ 1730D. Transmittal of information to Vet Center**
 9 **personnel on members of Armed Forces**
 10 **transitioning from service in Armed**
 11 **Forces to civilian life**

12 “(a) TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION.—Not later
 13 than seven days after the date on which a member or
 14 former member of the Armed Forces separates from serv-
 15 ice in the Armed Forces, the Secretary, in consultation
 16 with the Secretary of Defense, if necessary, shall transmit
 17 the information described in subsection (b) to the per-
 18 sonnel of the Vet Center nearest to where the member or
 19 former member intends to permanently reside after such
 20 separation.

21 “(b) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—The information
 22 described in this subsection includes, with respect to the
 23 member or former member of the Armed Forces, the fol-
 24 lowing:

25 “(1) Name.

26 “(2) Armed Force in which the member served.

1 “(3) Physical address.

2 “(4) Email address.

3 “(5) Phone number.

4 “(6) Service record.

5 “(7) Marital status.

6 “(8) Such other information as the Secretary
7 considers relevant, in consultation with the Secretary
8 of Defense and the Chief Officer of the Readjust-
9 ment Counseling Service of the Veterans Health Ad-
10 ministration.

11 “(c) METHOD OF TRANSMITTAL.—The Secretary
12 shall transmit information under subsection (a) electroni-
13 cally, in the form of an orderly and easily understood list.

14 “(d) RECEIPT OF INFORMATION.—Information
15 transmitted under subsection (a) shall be received and
16 processed by the Readjustment Counseling Service as the
17 Chief Officer of the Readjustment Counseling Service con-
18 siders appropriate.

19 “(e) USE OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall en-
20 sure that information transmitted from the Chief Officer
21 of the Readjustment Counseling Service to Vet Centers is
22 used to contact members and former members of the
23 Armed Forces transitioning from service in the Armed
24 Forces to civilian life not more than 14 days after receipt
25 of the information.

“(f) REFERRAL TO CLOSER VET CENTER.—If it is found, after personnel of a Vet Center contact a member or former member of the Armed Forces transitioning from service in the Armed Forces to civilian life, that another Vet Center is closer to where the member or former lives, the personnel who initially contacted the member or former member shall, only with the consent of the member or former member, directly connect the member or former member to the relevant personnel of the other Vet Center.

10 “(g) VET CENTER DEFINED.—In this section, the
11 term ‘Vet Center’ has the meaning given that term in sec-
12 tion 1712A(h) of this title.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1730C the following new item:

“1730D. Transmittal of information to Vet Center personnel on members of Armed Forces transitioning from service in Armed Forces to civilian life.”.

17 SEC. 3. PROVISION OF INFORMATION UNDER TRANSITION
18 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As part of the Transition Assistance Program, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide to members of the Armed Forces the following information:

(1) Instructions on how to locate Vet Centers,
with a focus on the location where the members of

1 the Armed Forces may intend to permanently reside
2 after separation from service in the Armed Forces.

3 (2) An explanation how to use services provided
4 through Vet Centers, including the social, emotional,
5 and mental health services offered.

6 (b) MANNER OF PROVISION.—The Secretary shall
7 provide the information under subsection (a) during in-
8 structor-led classroom and virtual courses.

9 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—The
11 term “Transition Assistance Program” means the
12 preseparation counseling, employment assistance,
13 and other transitional services provided under sec-
14 tions 1142 and 1144 of title 10, United States Code.

15 (2) VET CENTER.—The term “Vet Center” has
16 the meaning given that term in section 1712A(h) of
17 title 38, United States Code.

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