

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119–8
OFFERED BY MR. BOST OF ILLINOIS

At the end of subtitle G of title V, add the following
new section:

1 SEC. 5____. TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: AMEND-
2 MENTS; PILOT PROGRAM; REPORTS.

3 (a) REQUIREMENT OF PRESEPARATION COUN-
4 SELING: NUMBER OF DAYS.—Subsection (a) of section
5 1142 of title 10, United States Code, is amended, in para-
6 graph (1)—

7 (1) by inserting “(A)” before “Within”; and

8 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
9 paragraph:

10 “(B) The Secretary concerned shall ensure that a
11 member described in subparagraph (A) receives
12 preseparation counseling in the following amounts:

13 “(i) In the case of a member who has accepted
14 an offer of full-time employment, or has enrolled in
15 a program of education or vocational training, that
16 shall commence after the member separates, retires,
17 or is discharged, not fewer than three days.

1 “(ii) In the case of a member other than a
2 member described in clause (i), not fewer than five
3 days.”.

4 (b) PROVISION OF PRESEPARATION COUNSELING:
5 IN-PERSON TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE.—Such sub-
6 section is further amended, in paragraph (2)—

7 (1) by inserting “(A)” before “In carrying”;
8 and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
10 paragraph:

11 “(B) Preseparation counseling shall be provided in
12 person to the extent practicable. If the Secretary con-
13 cerned determines that a member cannot attend such
14 counseling in person, such member may receive such coun-
15 seling remotely, with online access to modules and reading
16 materials.”.

17 (c) TRACKING OF TIMELINESS.—Such subsection is
18 further amended, in paragraph (3), by adding at the end
19 the following new subparagraph:

20 “(C) The Secretary of Defense shall implement a sys-
21 tem to track how many, and what percentage of, members
22 begin to receive preseparation counseling within time peri-
23 ods specified in this paragraph.”.

24 (d) WAIVER FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE RE-
25 SERVE COMPONENTS.—Such subsection is further amend-

1 ed, in paragraph (4), by adding at the end the following
2 new subparagraph:

3 “(D) The Secretary concerned may waive the require-
4 ment for preseparation counseling under paragraph (1) in
5 the case of a member of the reserve components if—

6 “(i) the member requests such a waiver;

7 “(ii) the member received preseparation coun-
8 seling during the period of three years preceding the
9 date of such request; and

10 “(iii) matters covered by such counseling, speci-
11 fied in subsection (b), have not changed since the
12 member last received such counseling.”.

13 (e) ELIGIBILITY OF A MEMBER WHO REENLISTS TO
14 RECEIVE PRESEPARATION COUNSELING.—Such sub-
15 section is further amended by adding at the end the fol-
16 lowing new paragraph:

17 “(5) The commanding officer of a member described
18 in this subsection may, on a space available basis, author-
19 ize such member to receive preseparation counseling, re-
20 gardless of whether such member reenlists or agrees to
21 a new period of obligated service.”.

22 (f) REPEAT ATTENDANCE.—Such subsection is fur-
23 ther amended by adding at the end the following new para-
24 graph:

1 “(6) A member who received preseparation coun-
2 seling under this section may, before separation, retire-
3 ment, or discharge, request to receive, on a space-available
4 basis, such preseparation counseling a second time.”.

5 (g) ELECTIVE INCLUSION OF THE SPOUSE OF A
6 MEMBER.—Such section is further amended, in subsection
7 (b), in paragraph (5), by striking “regarding the matters
8 covered by paragraphs (9), (10), and (16)”.

9 (h) MINIMUM AMOUNT OF COUNSELING REGARDING
10 FINANCIAL PLANNING.—Such subsection is further
11 amended, in paragraph (9)—

12 (1) by inserting “(A)” before “Financial”;

13 (2) by striking “loans” and inserting “loans,
14 debt management, investing”; and

15 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
16 paragraphs:

17 “(B) Individualized assistance regarding mat-
18 ters described in subparagraph (A).

19 “(C) Counseling under subparagraph (A) or (B)
20 shall be provided by an individual who has signifi-
21 cant experience in financial planning.”.

22 (i) PATHWAYS: STANDARDIZATION; ESTABLISHMENT
23 OF PATHWAY FOR MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE COMPO-
24 NENTS.—Such section is further amended, in paragraph

1 (1) of subsection (c), in the matter preceding subpara-
2 graph (A)—

3 (1) by striking “Each Secretary concerned” and
4 inserting “The Secretaries of Defense and Homeland
5 Security”; and

6 (2) by striking “pathways for members of the
7 military department concerned (including one path-
8 way for members of the reserve components)” and
9 inserting “pathways, standardized across the armed
10 forces and including one pathway for members of
11 the reserve components, for members”.

12 (j) PATHWAYS: RECORD OF PATHWAY ASSIGN-
13 MENT.—Such subsection is further amended by adding at
14 the end the following new paragraph:

15 “(4) The Secretary concerned shall ensure that the
16 pathway in which a member is placed, and the reasons
17 for such placement, are noted in the service record of such
18 member.”.

19 (k) COORDINATION BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS OF
20 DEFENSE, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND LABOR.—Such sec-
21 tion is further amended, in subsection (d)—

22 (1) by striking the heading and inserting
23 “TRANSMISSION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION TO
24 OTHER DEPARTMENTS”;

25 (2) by inserting “(1)” before “In the case”; and

1 (3) by adding at the end the following new
2 paragraphs:

3 “(2) Before a member described in subsection (a)
4 separates, retires, or is discharged, the Secretary con-
5 cerned shall transmit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
6 the following information:

7 “(A) The contact information of such member.

8 “(B) The Department of Defense Form DD-
9 2648 regarding such member.

10 “(3)(A) In the case of a member described in sub-
11 section (a) whom the Secretary concerned determines is
12 at risk for a difficult transition to civilian life, the Sec-
13 retary concerned shall, before the member separates, re-
14 tires, or is discharged, provide—

15 “(i) such member with the contact information
16 of an employee of the Department of Veterans Af-
17 fairs and an employee of the Department of Labor;
18 and

19 “(ii) such employees with the contact informa-
20 tion of such member.

21 “(B) Each employee described in subparagraph (A)
22 shall contact the member described in such subparagraph
23 not later than 60 days after such member separates, re-
24 tires, or is discharged.

1 “(C) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Sec-
2 retary of Labor shall each submit to the Committees on
3 Armed Services and on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate
4 and House of Representatives an annual report that iden-
5 tifies the number of times, and reasons why, an employee
6 of the department under the jurisdiction of such Secretary
7 failed to carry out subparagraph (B) in the year preceding
8 the date of the report.

9 “(D) The Secretary of Defense and Secretary of
10 Homeland Security shall prescribe regulations to ensure
11 that, for purposes of this paragraph, each Secretary con-
12 cerned uses the same definition of the term ‘at risk for
13 a difficult transition to civilian life’.”.

14 (l) YEARLY SURPRISE AUDITS.—Such section is fur-
15 ther amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
16 section:

17 “(f) AUDITS.—(1)(A) Not less than once each year,
18 an employee or contractor of each department specified
19 in subparagraph (B) shall make unannounced visits to
20 preseparation counseling under this section in order to
21 audit such counseling.

22 “(B) The departments specified in this subparagraph
23 are the Department of Defense, the Department of Vet-
24 erans Affairs, and the Department of Labor.

1 “(2) Not later than 90 days after such a visit, the
2 employee or contractor shall submit to the Committees on
3 Armed Services and on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate
4 and House of Representatives a report regarding such
5 audit.

6 “(3) Such employees or contractors shall have exper-
7 tise regarding matters described in subsection (b).”.

8 (m) UPDATE OF TAP CURRICULA.—Such section is
9 further amended by adding at the end the following new
10 subsection:

11 “(g) CURRICULA.—Not less than once each year, the
12 Secretaries of Defense, Veterans Affairs, and Labor shall
13 review and update curricula for counseling and services
14 under this section and section 1144 of this title.”.

15 (n) WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
16 AFFAIRS REGARDING PROGRAMS FOR NEW VETERANS.—
17 Section 523 of title 38, United States Code, is amended
18 by adding at the end the following new subsection:

19 “(c) The Secretary shall maintain a publicly available
20 website of the Department through which a veteran or de-
21 pendent of a veteran may search by ZIP code for pro-
22 grams for—

23 “(1) veterans who recently separated from ac-
24 tive military, naval, air, or space service; or

1 “(2) dependents of veterans described in para-
2 graph (1).”.

3 (o) EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR A CERTAIN
4 PROGRAM OF JOB COUNSELING, TRAINING, AND PLACE-
5 MENT SERVICE FOR VETERANS.—

6 (1) DEFINITION.—Section 4101 of title 38,
7 United States Code, is amended in paragraph (5)—

8 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking the
9 comma at the end and inserting a semicolon;

10 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking
11 “power, or” and inserting “power;”

12 (C) in subparagraph (C), by striking the
13 period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

14 (D) by adding at the end the following new
15 subparagraph:

16 “(D) a member of the Armed Forces eligi-
17 ble for the Transition Assistance Program
18 under sections 1142 and 1144 of title 10.”.

19 (2) OUTREACH.—Section 4103A(a)(1) of such
20 title is amended—

21 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
22 (A), by inserting “and certain eligible persons”
23 after “eligible veterans”;

24 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as
25 subparagraph (D); and

1 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (B)
2 the following new subparagraph (C):

3 “(C) Eligible persons described in paragraph
4 (5)(D) of section 4101 of this title.”.

5 (p) SOLID START PROGRAM: INTERACTION WITH
6 TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

7 (1) CLARIFICATION OF REFERENCE TO TAP.—
8 Subsection (b) of section 6320 of title 38, United
9 States Code, is amended, in of paragraph (1), by
10 striking “transition classes or separation” and in-
11 serting “TAP classes or preseparation counseling”.

12 (2) ASSESSMENT OF TAP.—Such paragraph is
13 further amended, in subparagraph (H), by inserting
14 “and of TAP” before the period.

15 (3) DEFINITIONS.—Such section is further
16 amended—

17 (A) by striking paragraph (3) of subsection
18 (b); and

19 (B) by adding at the end the following new
20 subsection:

21 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 “(1) The term ‘TAP’ means the Transition As-
23 sistance Program under sections 1142 and 1144 of
24 title 10.

1 “(2) The term ‘Vet Center’ has the meaning
2 given such term in section 1712A(h) of this title.

3 “(3) The term ‘veterans service organization’
4 means an organization recognized by the Secretary
5 for the representation of veterans under section
6 5902 of this title.”.

7 (q) INFORMATION PROVIDED TO STATE VETERANS
8 AGENCIES REGARDING MEMBERS SEPARATING FROM
9 THE ARMED FORCES.—

10 (1) EXPANSION.—Section 570F of the National
11 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020
12 (Public Law 116–92; 10 U.S.C. 1142 note) is
13 amended, in subsection (a)—

14 (A) by redesignating paragraph (8) as
15 paragraph (9); and

16 (B) by inserting, after paragraph (7), the
17 following new paragraph (8):

18 “(8) Benefits for low-income households, includ-
19 ing the supplemental nutrition assistance program
20 (as such term is defined in section 3 of the Food
21 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (Public Law 88–525; 7
22 U.S.C. 2012)).”.

23 (2) LIMITATION OF VOLUNTARY PARTICIPA-
24 TION.—Such section is further amended, in sub-
25 section (d), by striking “Information” and inserting

1 “Except for information related to whether an indi-
2 vidual is eligible for benefits described in paragraph
3 (8) of subsection (a), information”.

4 (r) PILOT PROGRAM FOR MILITARY SPOUSES.—

5 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than one year
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
7 retary of Defense shall establish a pilot program for
8 spouses of members of the covered Armed Forces
9 who are eligible to receive preseparation counseling
10 under TAP.

11 (2) VOLUNTARY BASIS.—Participation in the
12 pilot program shall be on a voluntary basis.

13 (3) CURRICULUM.—The Secretary of Defense,
14 in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Af-
15 fairs and the Secretary of Labor, shall establish a
16 curriculum based on TAP for the pilot program.

17 (4) COUNSELING.—Counseling under the pilot
18 program shall—

19 (A) be tailored to the military spouse and
20 family;

21 (B) be offered at least once per calendar
22 quarter at each location selected under para-
23 graph (5);

24 (C) be offered at times including nights
25 and weekends; and

1 (D) include at least one hour regarding
2 benefits and assistance available to military
3 families and veterans from each department
4 under the jurisdiction of the Secretaries speci-
5 fied in subparagraph (C).

6 (5) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense
7 shall carry out the pilot program at not fewer than
8 five military installations of each of the covered
9 Armed Forces. One such location shall be located
10 outside the continental United States.

11 (6) REPORT.—Not later than one year before
12 the pilot program terminates, the Secretary of De-
13 fense shall submit to the Committees on Armed
14 Services of the Senate and House of Representatives
15 a report to the regarding the pilot program. Such re-
16 port shall include elements the Secretary determines
17 appropriate, including whether the pilot program
18 should be made permanent.

19 (7) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall
20 terminate three years after the Secretary of Defense
21 establishes the pilot program.

22 (8) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

23 (A) The term “covered Armed Force”
24 means the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air
25 Force, or Space Force.

1 (B) The term “TAP” means the Transi-
2 tion Assistance Program under sections 1142
3 and 1144 of title 10, United States Code.

4 (s) ANNUAL REPORT ON TAP PARTICIPATION.—Not
5 later than one year after the date of the enactment of this
6 Act, and annually thereafter for four years, the Secretary
7 of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Serv-
8 ices and on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House
9 of Representatives a report on the Transition Assistance
10 Program at military installations where at least 250 mem-
11 bers per year receive preseparation counseling under sec-
12 tion 1142 of title 10, United States Code. Such report
13 shall include the following elements with regards to the
14 year preceding the date of such report, disaggregated by
15 military installation:

16 (1) The number of members described in sub-
17 section (a)(1)(B)(ii) of such section 1142, as added
18 by subsection (a), who received fewer than five days
19 of preseparation counseling under such section.

20 (2) The average period of time between when a
21 member begins to receive preseparation counseling
22 and the day the member separates, retires, or is dis-
23 charged.

1 (3) The number of members who began to re-
2 ceive preseparation counseling and then re-enlisted
3 or agreed to a new period of obligated service.

4 (4) The number of members who began to re-
5 ceive preseparation counseling and then were de-
6 ployed.

7 (5) The number of members assigned to each
8 pathway under subsection (c) of such section.

9 (6) The number of members who, in the course
10 of such preseparation counseling, were referred to
11 another Federal agency or department.

12 (7) The Federal agencies or departments to
13 which members were so referred.

14 (8) The number of members who should have
15 been, but were not, so referred, and reasons why
16 such referrals did not occur.

17 (9) The number of members who receive such
18 preseparation counseling and apply for unemploy-
19 ment compensation under subchapter II of chapter
20 85 of title 5, United States Code.

21 (10) The total amount of such unemployment
22 compensation paid to members separating from the
23 Armed Forces.

