

AMENDMENT
TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116-19
OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle A of title XXXV, insert the following:

1 SEC. 35___ . MILITARY TO MARINER PROGRAM.

2 (a) CREDENTIALING SUPPORT.—Not later than one
3 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
4 retary of Defense and the Secretary of the Department
5 in which the Coast Guard operates, in coordination with
6 one another and with the United States Committee on the
7 Marine Transportation System, and in consultation with
8 the Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee, shall
9 identify all training and experience within each of the
10 Armed Forces that may qualify for merchant mariner
11 credentialing, and submit a list of all identified training
12 and experience to the United States Coast Guard National
13 Maritime Center for a determination of whether such
14 training and experience counts for credentialing purposes.

15 (b) REVIEW OF APPLICABLE SERVICE.—The United
16 States Coast Guard Commandant shall make a determina-
17 tion of whether training and experience counts for
18 credentialing purposes, as described in subsection (a), not

1 later than 6 months after the date on which the United
2 States Coast Guard National Maritime Center receives a
3 submission under subsection (a) identifying a training or
4 experience and requesting such a determination.

5 (c) FEES AND SERVICES.—The Secretary of Defense
6 and the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast
7 Guard operates, with respect to the applicable services in
8 their respective departments, shall—

9 (1) take all necessary and appropriate actions
10 to provide for the waiver of fees through the Na-
11 tional Maritime Center license evaluation, issuance,
12 and examination for members of the Armed Forces
13 on active duty, if a waiver is authorized and appro-
14 priate, and, if a waiver is not granted, take all nec-
15 essary and appropriate actions to provide for the
16 payment of fees for members of the Armed Forces
17 on active duty by the applicable service to the fullest
18 extent permitted by law;

19 (2) direct the Armed Forces to take all nec-
20 essary and appropriate actions to provide for Trans-
21 portation Worker Identification Credential cards for
22 members of the Armed Forces on active duty pur-
23 suing or possessing a mariner credential, such as im-
24 plementation of an equal exchange process for active
25 duty service members at no or minimal cost;

1 (3) ensure that members of the Armed Forces
2 who are to be discharged or released from active
3 duty and who request certification or verification of
4 sea service be provided such certification or
5 verification no later than one month after discharge
6 or release;

7 (4) ensure the Armed Forces have developed, or
8 continue to operate, as appropriate, the online re-
9 source known as Credentialing Opportunities On-
10 Line to support separating members of the Armed
11 Forces who are seeking information and assistance
12 on merchant mariner credentialing; and

13 (5) not later than one year after the date of en-
14 actment of this section, take all necessary and ap-
15 propriate actions to review and implement service-re-
16 lated medical certifications to merchant mariner cre-
17 dential requirements.

18 (d) **ADVANCING MILITARY TO MARINER WITHIN THE**
19 **EMPLOYER AGENCIES.—**

20 (1) **IN GENERAL.—**The Secretary of Defense
21 and the Secretary of the Department in which the
22 Coast Guard operates shall have direct hiring au-
23 thority to employ separated members of the Armed
24 Forces with valid merchant mariner licenses or sea
25 service experience in support of United States na-

1 tional maritime needs, including the Army Corps of
2 Engineers.

3 (2) APPOINTMENTS OF RETIRED MEMBERS OF
4 THE ARMED FORCES.—Except in the case of posi-
5 tions in the Senior Executive Service, the require-
6 ments of section 3326(b) of title 5, United States
7 Code, shall not apply with respect to the hiring of
8 a separated member of the Armed Forces under
9 paragraph (1).

10 (e) SEPARATED MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES.—

11 In this section, the term “separated member of the Armed
12 Forces” means an individual who—

13 (1) is retiring or is retired as a member of the
14 Armed Forces;

15 (2) is voluntarily separating or voluntarily sepa-
16 rated from the Armed Forces at the end of enlist-
17 ment or service obligation; or

18 (3) is administratively separating or has admin-
19 istratively separated from the Armed Forces with an
20 honorable or general discharge characterization.

