AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 115-70
OFFERED BY MR. LIPINSKI OF ILLINOIS

Add at the end of subtitle F of title V the following new section:

SEC. 5. COMPUTER NUMERICALLY CONTROLLED MACHINING CERTIFICATIONS FOR VETERANS.

(a) Pilot Program for Veterans Who Pursue Computer Numerically Controlled Machining Certifications.—

(1) Pilot Program.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program under which the Secretary shall provide eligible veterans with the opportunity to enroll in certification programs in computer numerically controlled machining.

(2) Eligibility.—For purposes of the pilot program under this subsection, an eligible veteran is a veteran who is entitled to educational assistance under the laws administered by the Secretary.

(3) Contracts.—

(A) In General.—For purposes of carrying out subsection (a), by not later than 180
days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall seek to enter into contracts with multiple qualified providers of certification programs in computer numerically controlled machining for the provision of such programs to eligible veterans under the pilot program.

(B) PAYMENT OF CONTRACTORS.—A contract under this subsection shall provide that the Secretary shall pay to a provider—

(i) 25 percent of the cost of providing the certification program upon the enrollment of an eligible veteran in the program;

(ii) 25 percent of such cost upon the completion of the program by the veteran;

and

(iii) 50 percent of such cost upon the employment of the veteran following completion of the program.

(C) QUALIFIED PROVIDERS.—For purposes of the pilot program, a provider of a certification program in computer numerically controlled machining is qualified if the provider has been operational for at least 2 years.
(D) Tuition Reimbursement.—In entering into contracts to carry out the pilot program, the Secretary shall give preference to a qualified provider that offers tuition reimbursement for any student who—

(i) completes a certification program offered by the provider; and

(ii) does not find full-time meaningful employment within the 180-day period beginning on the date the student completes the program.

(4) Housing Stipend.—The Secretary shall pay to each eligible veteran who is enrolled in a certification program in computer numerically controlled machining under the pilot program on a full-time basis a monthly housing stipend equal to the product of—

(A) in the case of—

(i) a veteran pursuing resident training, the monthly amount of the basic allowance for housing payable under section 403 of title 37, United States Code, for a member with dependents in pay grade E–5 who resides in the military housing area that encompasses all or the majority of the
ZIP code area in which the campus at which the veteran attends training or classes is located; or

(ii) a veteran pursuing a certification program through distance learning, a monthly amount equal to 50 percent of the amount payable under clause (i); and

(B) the lesser of—

(i) 1.0; or

(ii) the number of course hours carried by the individual in pursuit of the certification program involved, divided by the minimum number of course hours required for full-time pursuit of such certification program, rounded to the nearest tenth.

(5) Certification program in computer numerically controlled machining defined.—In this subsection, the term “certification program in computer numerically controlled machining” means a training program that—

(A) is offered by an entity—

(i) other than an institution of higher learning; or

(ii) that is a professional organization;

(B) does not lead to a degree; and
(C) leads to a National Institute for Metalworking Skills credential or certification in computer numerically controlled machining.

(6) REPORTS.—

(A) SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—
Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the pilot program under this subsection.

(B) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—

(i) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which the Secretary first enters into a contract under this subsection, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of the interim assessment of the Comptroller General. Such report shall include the recommendations of the Comptroller General for improving the pilot program and an assessment of each of the following:

(I) The manufacturing and training experience of the directors and instructors of the providers of certification programs in computer numerically controlled machining.
cally controlled machining under the pilot program.

(II) Whether the providers followed training curricula commonly used in the industry (including curricula from the National Institute for Metalworking Skills) for the certification programs.

(III) Whether the providers use open source curricula for the certification programs.

(IV) The admittance rate into the pilot program.

(V) The job placement rate for veterans who completed a certification program under the pilot program.

(VI) The average salary of veterans who completed a certification program under the pilot program and were subsequently employed.

(VII) The average age of veterans who participated in the pilot program.

(ii) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date on which the Secretary
first enters into a contract under this sub-
section, the Comptroller General shall sub-
mit to Congress a final report on the pilot
program. Such report shall include the rec-
ommendation of the Comptroller General
with respect to whether the program
should be extended and an assessment of
each of the following:

(I) Each item described in sub-
clauses (I) through (VII) of clause (i).

(II) The percentage of veterans
who completed a certification program
under the pilot program who were
subsequently employed for a period of
6 months or longer.

(7) Authorization of Appropriations.—
There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
retary of Veterans Affairs $5,000,000 for each fiscal
year during which the Secretary carries out a pilot
program under this subsection.

(8) Termination.—The authority to carry out
a pilot program under this subsection shall termi-
nate on the date that is 5 years after the date on
which the Secretary first enters into a contract
under this subsection.
(b) Comptroller General Review of the Career Technical Training Track of the Transition Assistance Program.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the career technical training track of the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (specifically with regard to the effectiveness of educating participants about apprenticeship opportunities) and submit to Congress a report on the results of the review and any recommendations of the Comptroller General for improving the program.