

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To designate a senior official responsible for the management and oversight of all programs and activities of the Department of Defense related to the transition of members of the Armed Forces to civilian or reserve status, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To designate a senior official responsible for the management and oversight of all programs and activities of the Department of Defense related to the transition of members of the Armed Forces to civilian or reserve status, 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 “Servicemember Civilian
5 Transition Support Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF SENIOR OFFICIAL FOR MILITARY**
2 **TO CIVILIAN OR RESERVE TRANSITION.**

3 (a) DESIGNATION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
5 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under
6 Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness
7 shall designate a senior official of the Department of
8 Defense to oversee policy and programs related to
9 the transition of members of the Armed Forces from
10 active duty to—

11 (A) civilian life; or

12 (B) reserve components.

13 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The official designated
14 under paragraph (1) shall be designated from among
15 individuals with—

16 (A) extensive experience with veterans
17 services; and

18 (B) knowledge of the transition from active
19 duty to—

20 (i) civilian life; and

21 (ii) reserve components.

22 (b) ROLE, RESPONSIBILITY, AND AUTHORITY.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary of De-
24 fense for Personnel and Readiness, in consultation
25 with the Secretary of Defense, shall prescribe the

1 roles, responsibilities, and authorities of the official
2 designated under subsection (a)(1).

3 (2) ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND AUTHORI-
4 TIES REQUIRED.—The roles, responsibilities, and au-
5 thorities prescribed pursuant to paragraph (1) shall
6 include, with respect to the transition of members of
7 the Armed Forces and their families from active
8 duty to civilian life and reserve components—

9 (A) serving as the principal advisor to the
10 Secretary of Defense, the Deputy Secretary of
11 Defense, and the Under Secretary of Defense
12 for Personnel and Readiness on policies, oper-
13 ations, and programs and activities relating to
14 the transition of members;

15 (B) assisting the Secretary of Defense, the
16 Deputy Secretary of Defense, and the Under
17 Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness
18 with policies, operations, and programs
19 and activities relating to the transition of mem-
20 bers;

21 (C) working, in coordination with the Sec-
22 retary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of
23 Labor, and the Secretary of Education, to im-
24 prove the efficiency and effectiveness of all ac-
25 tivities relating to the transition of members;

1 (D) serving as the chief transition officer
2 of the Department of Defense, with the mission
3 of coordinating and overseeing the effectiveness
4 of transition programs of the Department of
5 Defense and ensuring all members of the
6 Armed Forces are well equipped for civilian life
7 or the reserve components, as the case may be;

8 (E) overseeing the Military-Civilian Transi-
9 tion Office and the implementation of transition
10 programs across the Department of Defense;

11 (F) conducting a review and assessment of
12 all transition programs and services offered by
13 the Department of Defense, including the Tran-
14 sition Assistance Program and Skillbridge Pro-
15 gram, and proposing legislative or administra-
16 tive action—

17 (i) to improve the efficacy and effi-
18 ciency of the programs; and

19 (ii) to ensure compliance with all legal
20 requirements related to transition assist-
21 ance; and

22 (G) working with Federal agencies, State
23 and local governments, and nongovernmental
24 organizations to improve the delivery of transi-
25 tion support services.

1 (c) BRIEFING ON DESIGNATION AND IMPLEMENTA-
2 TION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-
3 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall provide
4 a briefing to the congressional defense committees (as de-
5 fined in section 101 of title 10, United States Code) on—
6 (1) the status of the designation of the official
7 under subsection (a); and
8 (2) the implementation of the roles, responsibil-
9 ities, and authorities of the official under subsection
10 (b).