

**H.R. 3838—STREAMLINING PROCUREMENT  
FOR EFFECTIVE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY  
AND NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION  
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY  
PERSONNEL**

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# DIVISION A—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATIONS

## TITLE IV—MILITARY PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATIONS

### LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

## SUBTITLE A—ACTIVE FORCES

### Section 401—End Strengths for Active Forces

This section would authorize the following end strengths for Active Duty personnel of the Armed Forces as of September 30, 2026:

|                | <b>FY 2025</b>    | <b>FY 2026</b> |                                     | <b>CHANGE FROM</b>         |                               |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>SERVICE</b> | <b>AUTHORIZED</b> | <b>REQUEST</b> | <b>COMMITTEE<br/>RECOMMENDATION</b> | <b>FY 2026<br/>REQUEST</b> | <b>FY 2025<br/>AUTHORIZED</b> |
| ARMY           | 442,300           | 454,000        | 454,000                             | 0                          | 11,700                        |
| NAVY           | 332,300           | 344,600        | 344,600                             | 0                          | 12,300                        |
| USMC           | 172,300           | 172,300        | 172,300                             | 0                          | 0                             |
| AIR<br>FORCE   | 320,000           | 321,500        | 321,500                             | 0                          | 1,500                         |
| SPACE<br>FORCE | 9,800             | 10,400         | 10,400                              | 0                          | 600                           |
| DOD<br>TOTAL   | 1,276,700         | 1,302,800      | 1,302,800                           | 0                          | 26,100                        |

## SUBTITLE B—RESERVE FORCES

### Section 411—End Strengths for Selected Reserve

This section would authorize the following end strengths for Selected Reserve personnel, including the end strength for Reserves on Active Duty in support of the Reserves, as of September 30, 2026:

|                            | <b>FY 2025</b>    | <b>FY 2026</b> |                                     | <b>Change from</b>         |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Service</b>             | <b>Authorized</b> | <b>Request</b> | <b>Committee<br/>Recommendation</b> | <b>FY 2026<br/>Request</b> | <b>FY 2025<br/>Authorized</b> |
| Army<br>National<br>Guard  | 325,000           | 328,000        | 328,000                             | 0                          | 3,000                         |
| Army<br>Reserve            | 175,800           | 172,000        | 172,000                             | 0                          | -3,800                        |
| Navy<br>Reserve            | 57,700            | 57,500         | 57,500                              | 0                          | -200                          |
| Marine<br>Corps<br>Reserve | 32,500            | 33,600         | 33,600                              | 0                          | 1,100                         |
| Air<br>National<br>Guard   | 107,700           | 106,300        | 106,300                             | 0                          | -1,400                        |

|                     |         |         |         |       |       |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|-------|
| Air Force Reserve   | 67,000  | 67,500  | 67,500  | 0     | 500   |
| DOD Total           | 765,700 | 764,900 | 764,900 | 0     | -800  |
| Coast Guard Reserve | 7,000   | 7,000   | 8,500   | 1,500 | 1,500 |

#### Section 412—End Strengths for Reserves on Active Duty in Support of the Reserves

This section would authorize the following end strengths for Reserves on Active Duty in support of the Reserves as of September 30, 2026:

|                      | <b>FY 2025</b>    | <b>FY 2026</b> |                                 | <b>Change from</b>     |                           |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Service</b>       | <b>Authorized</b> | <b>Request</b> | <b>Committee Recommendation</b> | <b>FY 2026 Request</b> | <b>FY 2025 Authorized</b> |
| Army National Guard  | 30,845            | 30,845         | 30,845                          | 0                      | 0                         |
| Army Reserve         | 16,511            | 16,511         | 16,511                          | 0                      | 0                         |
| Navy Reserve         | 10,132            | 10,409         | 10,409                          | 0                      | 277                       |
| Marine Corps Reserve | 2,400             | 2,400          | 2,400                           | 0                      | 0                         |
| Air National Guard   | 25,982            | 25,171         | 25,171                          | 0                      | -811                      |
| Air Force Reserve    | 6,311             | 6,218          | 6,218                           | 0                      | -93                       |
| DOD Total            | 92,181            | 91,554         | 91,554                          | 0                      | -627                      |

#### Section 413—End Strengths for Military Technicians (Dual Status)

This section would authorize the following end strengths for military technicians (dual status) as of September 30, 2026:

|                | <b>FY 2025</b>    | <b>FY 2026</b> |                                 | <b>Change from</b>     |                           |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Service</b> | <b>Authorized</b> | <b>Request</b> | <b>Committee Recommendation</b> | <b>FY 2026 Request</b> | <b>FY 2025 Authorized</b> |



|                     |        |        |        |   |        |
|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|---|--------|
| Army National Guard | 22,294 | 21,294 | 21,294 | 0 | -1,000 |
| Army Reserve        | 6,492  | 6,258  | 6,258  | 0 | -234   |
| Air National Guard  | 10,744 | 10,405 | 10,405 | 0 | -339   |
| Air Force Reserve   | 6,697  | 6,455  | 6,455  | 0 | -242   |
| DOD Total           | 46,227 | 44,412 | 44,412 | 0 | -1,815 |

Section 414—Maximum Number of Reserve Personnel Authorized To Be on Active Duty for Operational Support

This section would authorize, as required by section 115(b) of title 10, United States Code, the maximum number of Reserve Component personnel who may be on Active Duty or full-time National Guard duty during fiscal year 2026 to provide operational support. The personnel authorized here do not count against the end strengths authorized by section 401 or section 412 of this Act unless the duration on Active Duty exceeds the limitations in section 115(b)(2) of title 10, United States Code.

| SERVICE              | FY 2025    | FY 2026 |                          | CHANGE FROM     |                    |
|----------------------|------------|---------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
|                      | AUTHORIZED | REQUEST | COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION | FY 2026 REQUEST | FY 2025 AUTHORIZED |
| ARMY NATIONAL GUARD  | 17,000     | 17,000  | 17,000                   | 0               | 0                  |
| ARMY RESERVE         | 13,000     | 13,000  | 13,000                   | 0               | 0                  |
| NAVY RESERVE         | 6,200      | 6,200   | 6,200                    | 0               | 0                  |
| MARINE CORPS RESERVE | 3,000      | 3,000   | 3,000                    | 0               | 0                  |
| AIR NATIONAL GUARD   | 16,000     | 16,000  | 16,000                   | 0               | 0                  |
| AIR FORCE RESERVE    | 14,000     | 14,000  | 14,000                   | 0               | 0                  |

|              |        |        |        |   |   |
|--------------|--------|--------|--------|---|---|
| DOD<br>TOTAL | 69,200 | 69,200 | 69,200 | 0 | 0 |
|--------------|--------|--------|--------|---|---|

## SUBTITLE C—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; REPORTS

### Section 421—Military Personnel

This section would authorize appropriations for military personnel at the levels identified in the funding table in section 4401 of division D of this Act.

### Section 422—Streamlining of Total Force Reporting Requirements

This section would streamline Total Force reporting requirements by realigning, reducing, and eliminating data reporting requirements in title 10, United States Code sections 115a and 129.

## TITLE V—MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY

### LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

#### SUBTITLE A—OFFICER POLICY

### Section 501—Treatment of Space Force Officers for Purposes of Laws Relating to Authorized Number and Distribution of Officers in General Officer Grades

This section would amend sections 525 and 526 of title 10, United States Code, to incorporate the Space Force into existing exemptions for reserve component general officers. The five authorizations would come from the allocation to the Air Force Reserve.

### Section 502—Redistribution of General Officers on Active Duty from the Air Force to the Space Force

This section would codify previously transferred general officer positions from the Air Force to the Space Force.

### Section 503—Authority to Waive Prohibition on Officers Serving on Successive Selection Boards for Boards to Consider Officers for Promotion to Major General or Rear Admiral

This section would amend section 612 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of a military department to waive subsection (b) of that section for membership of a selection board to consider officers for promotion to major general or rear admiral if the Secretary determines that qualified officers who are on the active-duty list or Space Force officer list or who are otherwise

authorized to serve on the board are not available in sufficient number to comprise that selection board.

Section 504—Chaplains: Career Flexibility; Detail as Students at Schools for Education Required for Appointment

This section would permit the Secretary of a military department to detail students at schools for education to become a military chaplain.

Section 505—Procedures for Selection of Space Force Officers for Promotion to Major General

This section would amend chapter 2002 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of the Air Force to identify a Space Force brigadier general for appointment to the grade of major general. The section would authorize that to be promoted to major general in the Space Force, an officer must be appointed with the advice and consent of the Senate after selection by a selection board.

Section 506—Designation of at Least One General Officer of the Marine Corps Reserve as a Joint Qualified Officer

This section would require that not less than one Marine Corps Reserve General Officer shall be designated as joint qualified officer.

SUBTITLE B—RESERVE COMPONENT MANAGEMENT

Section 511—Grades of Certain Chiefs of Reserve Components

This section would amend title 10, United States Code, to require that the Chiefs of Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, and Air Force Reserve, and the Commander, Marine Forces Reserve, each serve in the grade of O-9.

Section 512—Prohibition on Consideration of Amount of Time of Service in Activation of Reserve Members

This section would prevent the Armed Forces from discharging reservists or disapproving orders to Active Duty to prevent them from becoming eligible for a regular retirement.

Section 513—National Guard: Active Guard and Reserve Duty in Response to a State Disaster

This section would authorize governors and Adjutants General to tailor the force composition of their disaster responses, by providing temporary access to

Active Guard and Reserve personnel possessing high-demand, low-density skills that are vital during disaster response operations.

#### SUBTITLE C—GENERAL SERVICE AUTHORITIES, DECORATIONS AND AWARDS, AND MILITARY RECORDS

##### Section 521—Codification of Additional Basic Branches of the Army

This section would amend section 7063 of title 10, United States Code, to codify additional branches of the United States Army.

##### Section 522—Authorization for Award of Medal of Honor to Major James Capers, Jr., for Acts of Valor as a Member of the Marine Corps During the Vietnam War

This section would waive the time limitation for the award of the Medal of Honor for James Capers, Jr.

#### SUBTITLE D—RECRUITMENT

##### Section 531—Recruitment: Improvements Relating to Secondary Schools and Institutions of Higher Education

This section would provide greater access for military recruiters at secondary schools and other institutes of higher learning.

##### Section 532—Alternative Service in the Defense Industrial Base by Individuals Denied Enlistment

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to develop a program to provide information on careers in the defense industrial base for those not qualified for military service.

#### SUBTITLE E—MEMBER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

##### Section 541—Inclusion of Space Force Education Programs in Definitions Regarding Professional Military Education

This section would amend section 2151 of title 10, United States Code, to include the Space Force's Senior Level Education and Intermediate Level Education programs in the definitions of senior-level and intermediate-level service schools.

##### Section 542—Modification to the Designation of Members of the House of Representatives to the Boards of Visitors of Service Academies

This section would correct the number of members of the House of Representatives designated to the boards of visitors of the service academies.

Section 543—Detail of Members of the Space Force as Instructors at Air Force Institute of Technology

This section would require the U.S. Space Force to establish billets for instructors at the Air Force Institute of Technology.

Section 544—Repeal of Annual Certifications Related to the Ready, Relevant Learning Initiative of the Navy

This section would repeal the requirement for the report to Congress on Ready, Relevant Learning in the U.S. Navy.

SUBTITLE F—CAREER TRANSITION

Section 551—Presentation by a Veterans Service Organization in TAP Preseparation Counseling

This section would enhance the Transition Assistance Program by standardizing the presentation of Department of Veteran Affairs' offerings while introducing transitioning servicemembers to Department of Veterans Affairs approved Veteran Service Organizations who are able to assist with the transition into civilian life and navigating benefits available to servicemembers and their families.

SUBTITLE G—FAMILY PROGRAMS AND CHILD CARE

Section 561—Extension of Pilot Program to Provide Financial Assistance to Members of the Armed Forces for In-Home Child Care

This section would extend the Child Care in Your Home Pilot Program until December 31, 2029.

SUBTITLE H—DEPENDENT EDUCATION

Section 572—Verification of Reporting of Eligible Federally Connected Children for Purposes of Federal Impact Aid Programs

This section would require the commanders of each military installation to annually submit a written certification to their respective military departments verifying whether they have confirmed the information contained in all Impact Aid source check forms.

# TITLE VI—COMPENSATION AND OTHER PERSONNEL BENEFITS

## LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

### SUBTITLE A—BASIC PAY AND RETIRED PAY

#### Section 601—Codification of Applicability to Space Force of Certain Pay and Allowance Authorities

This section would amend title 37, United States Code, to insert references to the Space Force to reflect pay and allowance authorities already applicable to the Space Force.

### SUBTITLE B—BONUS AND INCENTIVE PAYS

#### Section 611—One-Year Extension of Certain Expiring Bonus and Special Pay Authorities

This section would extend service bonus and special pay authorities until December 2026.

#### Section 612—Incentive Pay: Explosive Ordnance Disposal Duty

This section would make certain improvements to incentive pay for explosive ordnance disposal duty.

### SUBTITLE C—ALLOWANCES

#### Section 621—Basic Needs Allowance: Exclusion of Basic Allowance for Housing from the Calculation of Gross Household Income of an Eligible Member of the Armed Forces

This section would modify how gross household income is calculated for purposes of determining a servicemember's eligibility for a basic needs allowance.

#### Section 622—Family Separation Allowance: Increase

This section would require the increase of the Family Separation Allowance for servicemembers to \$400 per month.

#### Section 623—Report Regarding the Basic Allowance for Subsistence and Military Food Programs

This section would require a yearly report for 5 years regarding how the basic allowance for subsistence, subsistence in-kind, and budget authorities are used to support food programs.

#### Section 624—Basic Allowance for Housing: Study to Evaluate Alternative Rate Calculation

This section would establish a study to evaluate alternative methods for calculating the Basic Allowance for Housing rate to better reflect regional market trends.

### SUBTITLE D—LEAVE

#### Section 631—Convalescent Leave for Cadets and Midshipmen

This section would authorize convalescent leave for service academy cadets and midshipmen.

### SUBTITLE E—FAMILY AND SURVIVOR BENEFITS

#### Section 641—Annual Review of Financial Assistance Limits for Child Care and Youth Program Services Providers

This section would amend section 1798 of title 10, United States Code, to require an annual review of the amount of financial assistance for eligible civilian child care youth program services providers.

#### Section 642—Waiver of Requirements for Air Transportation of Deceased Members of the Armed Forces When Necessary to Meet Mission Requirements

This section would allow the Secretary of Defense flexibility in determining transportation requirements of deceased personnel during wartime or other national emergency.

### SUBTITLE F—DEFENSE RESALE MATTERS

#### Section 651—Use of Commissary Stores: Civilian Employees of Military Sealift Command

This section would amend section 1066 of title 10, United States Code, to permit civilian employees of the Military Sealift Command to use commissary stores and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation retail facilities on the same basis as members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty.

### SUBTITLE G—OTHER BENEFITS, REPORTS, AND BRIEFINGS

## Section 661—Expansion of Pilot Program to Increase Access to Food on Military Installations

This section would expand a current Army pilot program across all military services to improve food access for servicemembers living in unaccompanied housing on military installations, allowing them to use their Common Access Cards or another approved method at dining facilities, commissaries, exchanges, restaurants, and other locations where servicemembers can obtain food.

# TITLE VII—HEALTH CARE PROVISIONS

## LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

### SUBTITLE A—TRICARE AND OTHER HEALTH BENEFITS

#### Section 701—Dental Readiness

This section would provide no cost dental coverage under TRICARE for members of the Reserve Component.

#### Section 702—Inclusion of Certain Tests as Part of the Periodic Health Assessment Provided to Members of the Armed Forces

This section would direct the Secretary of Defense to include certain tests as part of the periodic health assessments provided to members of the Armed Forces.

#### Section 703—Pilot Program on Access to Obstetrical and Gynecological Care under TRICARE Prime Program

This section would establish a pilot program for covered patients to designate an obstetrical and gynecological care provider under TRICARE and receive care without a referral by the designated provider.

#### Section 704—Pilot Program to Treat Pregnancy as a Qualifying Event for Enrollment in TRICARE Select

This section would direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct a five-year pilot program treating pregnancy as a qualifying life event for the purposes of eligibility to enroll in TRICARE Select.

### SUBTITLE B—HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION

#### Section 711—Military-Civilian Medical Surge Program



This section would authorize a military civilian Partnership Program to enhance interoperability and medical surge capability and capacity of the National Disaster Medical System.

Section 712—Reimbursement for Travel Expenses Relating to Specialty Care for Certain Members of the Armed Forces and Dependents

This section would lower the reimbursement for medical appointment mileage to 50 miles.

Section 713—Modification of Limitation on Reduction of Military Medical Manning End Strength

This section would extend the restriction on cuts to military medical end strength.

Section 714—Prohibition on Availability of Funds for Painful Research on Domestic Cats and Dogs

This provision would prevent the Department of Defense from using funds to conduct painful research on domestic cats and dogs unless the Secretary of Defense grants a waiver on a case-by-case basis.

Section 715—Pilot Program to Test Standalone Technology to Improve Efficiencies in Supply-Chain Management, Medical Readiness, and Medical Processes

This section would establish a pilot program to support innovative medical technology.

SUBTITLE C—STUDIES, BRIEFINGS, REPORTS, AND OTHER MATTERS

Section 721—Strategy for Treating Traumatic Brain Injuries through Digital Health Technologies

This section would establish a working group to develop a strategy for treating traumatic brain injuries through digital health technologies.

Section 722—Report on Traumatic Brain Injuries Among Certain Pilots Serving on Active Duty

This section would direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study to determine whether pilots suffer traumatic brain injury from the cumulative effects of high performance flying.

Section 723—Study on Effects of Service in the Special Operations Forces to Health  
of Members of the Armed Forces

This section would direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct a five-year study on the impacts of special operations service on personnel health.

TITLE X—GENERAL PROVISIONS

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE D—MISCELLANEOUS AUTHORITIES AND LIMITATIONS

Section 1031—Modification of Authority to Provide Assistance in Support of  
Department of Defense Accounting for Missing United States Government  
Personnel

This section would amend section 408 of title 10, United States Code, by adding the authority to procure goods and services as it relates to recovery efforts and to increase the statutory cap on the amount of assistance that can be provided to foreign nations in any fiscal year from \$5.0 million to \$15.0 million.

TITLE XI—CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

Section 1101—Living Quarter Allowance for Department of Defense Civilian  
Employees with Permanent Duty Station in Guam

This section would authorize the Secretary of Defense to provide a living quarter allowance to all Department of Defense civilian employees permanently assigned to Guam.

Section 1102—Appointment of Retired Members of the Armed Forces to  
Competitive Service and Excepted Service Positions in the Department of Defense

This section would allow for the appointment of retired members of the Armed Forces to competitive service or excepted service positions in the Department of Defense without a waiver.

Section 1103—Pay for Crews of Vessels

This section would prevent certain administrative payment limitations from application to the officers and crews of vessels of the Military Sealift Command.

Section 1105—One-Year Extension of Authority to Waive Annual Limitation on Premium Pay and Aggregate Limitation on Pay for Federal Civilian Employees Working Overseas

This section would extend the authority to waive the annual limitation on premium pay for Federal civilian employees working overseas.

Section 1106—One-Year Extension of Temporary Authority to Grant Allowances, Benefits, and Gratuities to Civilian Personnel on Official Duty in a Combat Zone

This section would provide a one-year extension on the authority to grant allowances, benefits, and gratuities to civilian personnel on official duty in a combat zone.

## TITLE XIV—OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS

### LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

#### SUBTITLE C—OTHER MATTERS

Section 1421—Extension of Authorities for Funding and Management of Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund for Captain James A. Lovell Health Care Center, Illinois

This section would extend the authorities for funding and management of joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility demonstration fund for Captain James A. Lovell Health Care Center, Illinois until September 30, 2027.

Section 1423—Authorization of Appropriations for Armed Forces Retirement Home

This section would authorize an appropriation of \$77.0 million from the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund for fiscal year 2026 for the operation of the Armed Forces Retirement Home.

## TITLE XV—CYBERSPACE-RELATED MATTERS

### LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

#### SUBTITLE E—REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Section 1541—Occupational Resiliency of the Cyber Mission Force

This section would ensure behavioral health providers have the requisite security clearances to treat the Cyber Mission Force where they are co-located.

## TITLE XVII—OTHER DEFENSE MATTERS

### LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

Section 1702—Copyright to a Literary Work Produced by a Civilian Faculty  
Member of the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in the Course of  
Such Employment: Free Use by the Federal Government

This section would add copyright protection for certain literary works at the  
Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences.

# **BILL LANGUAGE**

1           **Subtitle A—Active Forces**

2   **SEC. 401 [Log 82133]. END STRENGTHS FOR ACTIVE FORCES.**

3           The Armed Forces are authorized strengths for active  
4 duty personnel as of September 30, 2026, as follows:

5           (1) The Army, 454,000.

6           (2) The Navy, 344,600.

7           (3) The Marine Corps, 172,300.

8           (4) The Air Force, 321,500.

9           (5) The Space Force, 10,400.

1           **Subtitle B—Reserve Forces**

2   **SEC. 411 [Log 82134]. END STRENGTHS FOR SELECTED RE-**  
3           **SERVE.**

4           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Armed Forces are authorized  
5 strengths for Selected Reserve personnel of the reserve  
6 components as of September 30, 2026, as follows:

7           (1) The Army National Guard of the United  
8 States, 328,000.

9           (2) The Army Reserve, 172,000.

10          (3) The Navy Reserve, 57,500.

11          (4) The Marine Corps Reserve, 33,600.

12          (5) The Air National Guard of the United  
13 States, 106,300.

14          (6) The Air Force Reserve, 67,500.

15          (7) The Coast Guard Reserve, 8,500.

16          (b) END STRENGTH REDUCTIONS.—The end  
17 strengths prescribed by subsection (a) for the Selected Re-  
18 serve of any reserve component shall be proportionately  
19 reduced by—

20           (1) the total authorized strength of units orga-  
21 nized to serve as units of the Selected Reserve of  
22 such component which are on active duty (other  
23 than for training) at the end of the fiscal year; and

24           (2) the total number of individual members not  
25 in units organized to serve as units of the Selected

1 Reserve of such component who are on active duty  
2 (other than for training or for unsatisfactory partici-  
3 pation in training) without their consent at the end  
4 of the fiscal year.

5 (c) END STRENGTH INCREASES.—Whenever units or  
6 individual members of the Selected Reserve of any reserve  
7 component are released from active duty during any fiscal  
8 year, the end strength prescribed for such fiscal year for  
9 the Selected Reserve of such reserve component shall be  
10 increased proportionately by the total authorized strengths  
11 of such units and by the total number of such individual  
12 members.



1 **SEC. 412 [Log 82135]. END STRENGTHS FOR RESERVES ON**  
2 **ACTIVE DUTY IN SUPPORT OF THE RE-**  
3 **SERVES.**

4 Within the end strengths prescribed in section  
5 411(a), the reserve components of the Armed Forces are  
6 authorized, as of September 30, 2026, the following num-  
7 ber of Reserves to be serving on full-time active duty or  
8 full-time duty, in the case of members of the National  
9 Guard, for the purpose of organizing, administering, re-  
10 cruiting, instructing, or training the reserve components:

11 (1) The Army National Guard of the United  
12 States, 30,845.

13 (2) The Army Reserve, 16,511.

14 (3) The Navy Reserve, 10,409.

15 (4) The Marine Corps Reserve, 2,400.

16 (5) The Air National Guard of the United  
17 States, 25,171.

18 (6) The Air Force Reserve, 6,218.

1 **SEC. 413 [Log 82136]. END STRENGTHS FOR MILITARY**  
2 **TECHNICIANS (DUAL STATUS).**

3 The minimum number of military technicians (dual  
4 status) as of the last day of fiscal year 2026 for the re-  
5 serve components of the Army and the Air Force (notwith-  
6 standing section 129 of title 10, United States Code) shall  
7 be the following:

8 (1) For the Army National Guard of the United  
9 States, 21,294.

10 (2) For the Army Reserve, 6,258.

11 (3) For the Air National Guard of the United  
12 States, 10,405.

13 (4) For the Air Force Reserve, 6,455.

1 **SEC. 414 [Log 82137]. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF RESERVE PER-**  
2 **SONNEL AUTHORIZED TO BE ON ACTIVE**  
3 **DUTY FOR OPERATIONAL SUPPORT.**

4 During fiscal year 2026, the maximum number of  
5 members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces  
6 who may be serving at any time on full-time operational  
7 support duty under section 115(b) of title 10, United  
8 States Code, is the following:

9 (1) The Army National Guard of the United  
10 States, 17,000.

11 (2) The Army Reserve, 13,000.

12 (3) The Navy Reserve, 6,200.

13 (4) The Marine Corps Reserve, 3,000.

14 (5) The Air National Guard of the United  
15 States, 16,000.

16 (6) The Air Force Reserve, 14,000.

1           **Subtitle C—Authorization of**  
2                   **Appropriations; Reports**

3   **SEC. 421 [log82138]. MILITARY PERSONNEL.**

4           (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Funds  
5 are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year  
6 2026 for the use of the Armed Forces and other activities  
7 and agencies of the Department of Defense for expenses,  
8 not otherwise provided for, for military personnel, as spec-  
9 ified in the funding table in section 4401.

10          (b) CONSTRUCTION OF AUTHORIZATION.—The au-  
11 thorization of appropriations in the subsection (a) super-  
12 sedes any other authorization of appropriations (definite  
13 or indefinite) for such purpose for fiscal year 2026.

1 **SEC. 422 [log82800]. STREAMLINING OF TOTAL FORCE RE-**  
2 **PORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

3 (a) REPEAL OF ANNUAL REPORT ON MILITARY  
4 TECHNICIANS.—Section 115a of title 10, United States  
5 Code, is amended by striking subsection (g).

6 (b) INCORPORATION OF ANNUAL CIVILIAN PER-  
7 SONNEL MANAGEMENT REPORT INTO ANNUAL DEFENSE  
8 MANPOWER PROFILE REPORT.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Such section is further  
10 amended—

11 (A) by redesignating subsections (d)  
12 through (f) as subsections (e) through (g), re-  
13 spectively; and

14 (B) by inserting after subsection (c) the  
15 following new subsection (d):

16 “(d)(1) The Secretary shall include in each report  
17 under subsection (a) a detailed discussion of the manage-  
18 ment of the civilian workforce of the Department of De-  
19 fense. The discussion shall include the matter specified in  
20 paragraph (2) for the civilian workforce of—

21 “(A) the Office of the Secretary of Defense;

22 “(B) the Defense Agencies;

23 “(C) the Department of Defense Field Activi-  
24 ties; and

25 “(D) the military departments.”.

1           (2) TRANSFER.—Paragraph (2) of section  
2       129(c) of such title—

3           (A) is amended, in the matter preceding  
4       subparagraph (A)—

5           (i) by striking “Each report under  
6       paragraph (1) shall contain” and inserting  
7       “‘The matter to be included in each discus-  
8       sion under paragraph (1)’”; and

9           (ii) by striking “under the jurisdiction  
10       of the official submitting the report,” and  
11       inserting “of each element of the Depart-  
12       ment of Defense named in such paragraph,  
13       is”; and

14          (B) is transferred to section 115a and in-  
15       serted at the end of subsection (d) of such sec-  
16       tion, as added by paragraph (1) of this sub-  
17       section.

18          (3) CONFORMING REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT  
19       FOR SEPARATE ANNUAL CIVILIAN PERSONNEL MAN-  
20       AGEMENT REPORT.—Section 129 of such title is  
21       amended by striking subsection (c).

## Subtitle A—Officer Policy

**SEC. 501 [log82878]. TREATMENT OF SPACE FORCE OFFICERS FOR PURPOSES OF LAWS RELATING TO AUTHORIZED NUMBER AND DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICERS IN GENERAL OFFICER GRADES.**

(a) DISTRIBUTION OF COMMISSIONED OFFICERS ON ACTIVE DUTY IN GENERAL OFFICER GRADES.—Section 525 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “or the Space Force officer list” after “officer on the active duty list”;

(B) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “officers in the grade of general” and inserting “officers on sustained duty orders in the grade of general”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “officers in a grade above” and inserting “officers on sustained duty orders in a grade above”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “officers in the grade” and inserting “officers on sustained duty orders in the grade”; and

1           (2) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the  
2       following new paragraph:

3       “(3)(A) The limitations of this section do not apply  
4   to a Space Force general officer serving in space force ac-  
5   tive status not on sustained duty orders, and who is on  
6   active duty for a period in excess of 365 days but not to  
7   exceed three years. Unless authorized by the Secretary of  
8   Defense, the number of Space Force general officers cov-  
9   ered by this subsection and not serving in a joint duty  
10   assignment for purposes of chapter 38 of this title may  
11   not exceed five.

12       “(B) Not later than 30 days after authorizing a num-  
13   ber of Space Force general officers in excess of the num-  
14   ber specified in subparagraph (A), the Secretary of De-  
15   fense shall provide a notification as required in paragraph  
16   (2).”.

17       (b) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN OFFICERS FROM AU-  
18   THORIZED STRENGTH OF SPACE FORCE GENERAL OFFI-  
19   CERS ON ACTIVE DUTY.—Section 526 of such title is  
20   amended—

21           (1) in subsection (c)—

22               (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting  
23       “AND OF THE SPACE FORCE” after “COMPO-  
24       NENTS”;



1 (B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or of  
2 the Space Force” after “a reserve component”;

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

5 “(D) The Secretary of the Air Force may au-  
6 thorize not more than two of the general officers au-  
7 thorized to serve in the Space Force under section  
8 20110 of this title to serve on active duty for a pe-  
9 riod of at least 180 days and not longer than 365  
10 days.”; and

11 (D) in paragraph (3)(A), by inserting “(or  
12 a Space Force general officer in a space force  
13 active status on sustained duty)” after “a re-  
14 serve component”; and

15 (2) in subsection (d)—

16 (A) by striking “or” at the end of para-  
17 graph (1);

18 (B) by striking the period at the end of  
19 paragraph (2) and inserting “; or”; and

20 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
21 paragraph:

22 “(3) a Space Force officer in the grade of brig-  
23 adier general or above on orders to sustained duty  
24 during the 60-day period preceding the end of such  
25 orders.”.

1 (c) STRENGTH IN GRADE OF SPACE FORCE GEN-  
2 ERAL OFFICERS IN SPACE FORCE ACTIVE STATUS NOT  
3 ON SUSTAINED DUTY.—Chapter 2003 of such title is  
4 amended by adding at the end the following new section:

5 **“§ 20110. Strength in grade: Space Force general offi-**  
6 **cers in Space Force active status not on**  
7 **sustained duty**

8 “(a) AUTHORIZED STRENGTH.—The authorized  
9 strength of general officers in the Space Force serving in  
10 space force active status not on sustained duty is five.

11 “(b) EXCLUSIONS.—The following Space Force gen-  
12 eral officers shall not be counted for purposes of this sec-  
13 tion:

14 “(1) Those counted under section 526 of this  
15 title.

16 “(2) Those serving in a joint duty assignment  
17 for purposes of chapter 38 of this title, except that  
18 the number of officers who shall not be counted  
19 under this paragraph may not exceed two.

20 “(c) PERMANENT GRADE.—A Space Force general  
21 officer may not be reduced in permanent grade because  
22 of a reduction in the number authorized under subsection  
23 (a).

24 “(d) TEMPORARY EXCLUSION.—The limitation of  
25 subsection (a) does not apply to an officer released from

1 a joint duty assignment or other non-joint active duty as-  
2 signment, but only during the 60-day period beginning on  
3 the date the officer departs the joint duty or other active  
4 duty assignment. The Secretary of Defense may authorize  
5 the Secretary of the Air Force to extend the 60-day period  
6 by an additional 120 days, except that not more than three  
7 Space Force officers may be covered by an extension under  
8 this subsection at the same time.”.

1 **SEC. 502 [log82616]. REDISTRIBUTION OF GENERAL OFFI-**  
2 **CERS ON ACTIVE DUTY FROM THE AIR FORCE**  
3 **TO THE SPACE FORCE.**

4 Section 526(a) of title 10, United States Code, is  
5 amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “171” and in-  
7 serting “168”; and

8 (2) in paragraph (5), by striking “21” and in-  
9 serting “24”.

1 **SEC. 503 [Log 82876]. AUTHORITY TO WAIVE PROHIBITION**  
2 **ON OFFICERS SERVING ON SUCCESSIVE SE-**  
3 **LECTION BOARDS FOR BOARDS TO CONSIDER**  
4 **OFFICERS FOR PROMOTION TO MAJOR GEN-**  
5 **ERAL OR REAR ADMIRAL.**

6 Section 612(b) of title 10, United States Code, is  
7 amended—

8 (1) by inserting “(1)” after “(b)”; and

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

11 “(2) Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary  
12 of Defense, the Secretary of a military department may  
13 waive the limitation in paragraph (1) in the case of a selec-  
14 tion board that will consider officers for recommendation  
15 for promotion to the grade of major general or rear admi-  
16 ral if the Secretary of the military department determines  
17 that qualified officers on the active-duty list or Space  
18 Force officer list or otherwise authorized to serve on the  
19 board are not available in sufficient number to comprise  
20 that selection board.”.

1 **SEC. 504 [log82712]. CHAPLAINS: CAREER FLEXIBILITY; DE-**  
2 **TAIL AS STUDENTS AT SCHOOLS FOR EDU-**  
3 **CATION REQUIRED FOR APPOINTMENT.**

4 (a) CAREER FLEXIBILITY FOR CHAPLAINS.—Sub-  
5 section (a) of section 710 of title 10, United States Code,  
6 is amended—

7 (1) by inserting “(1)” before “Each Secretary”;  
8 and

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

11 “(2) If the Secretary of a military department carries  
12 out a program under paragraph (1), such Secretary shall,  
13 pursuant to this section, inactivate a member who com-  
14 pletes a detail under section 2004c of this title upon such  
15 completion so such member may perform religious min-  
16 istry that meets professional requirements for appoint-  
17 ment as a chaplain in the military department con-  
18 cerned.”.

19 (b) DETAIL AS STUDENTS AT SCHOOLS FOR EDU-  
20 CATION REQUIRED FOR APPOINTMENT AS A CHAPLAIN.—  
21 Chapter 101 of title 10, United States Code, is amended  
22 by inserting after section 2004b the following new section  
23 2004c:

1 **“§ 2004c. Detail as students at schools for education**  
2 **required for appointment as a chaplain:**  
3 **commissioned officers; certain enlisted**  
4 **members**

5 “(a) DETAIL AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of each  
6 military department may detail commissioned officers and  
7 enlisted members of the armed forces as students at ac-  
8 credited colleges, universities, and schools of theology, lo-  
9 cated in the United States, for a period of training leading  
10 to a graduate degree that meets the educational require-  
11 ments for appointment as a chaplain in the armed forces.  
12 No more than twenty officers and enlisted members from  
13 each military department may commence such training in  
14 any single fiscal year.

15 “(b) ELIGIBILITY FOR DETAIL.—To be eligible for  
16 detail under subsection (a), an officer or enlisted member  
17 must be a citizen of the United States and must—

18 “(1)(A) have served on active duty for a period  
19 of not less than two years nor more than five years  
20 and be an officer in the pay grade O–3 or below as  
21 of the time the training is to begin; or

22 “(B) have served on active duty for a period of  
23 not less than three years nor more than ten years  
24 and be an enlisted member in the pay grade E–4 or  
25 above as of the time the training is to begin;

1 “(2) in the case of an enlisted member, meet all  
2 requirements for acceptance of a commission as a  
3 commissioned officer in the armed forces; and

4 “(3) sign an agreement that unless sooner sepa-  
5 rated the officer or enlisted member will—

6 “(A) complete the educational course of  
7 chaplaincy training; and

8 “(B) if the Secretary of the military de-  
9 partment concerned carries out a program  
10 under section 710 of this title—

11 “(i) agree to be inactivated for a pe-  
12 riod of not less than two years nor more  
13 than three years under subsection (a)(2) of  
14 such section title upon completion of a de-  
15 tail under this section; and

16 “(ii) accept transfer or detail as a  
17 chaplain in the military department con-  
18 cerned upon completion of the period de-  
19 scribed in clause (i).

20 “(c) SERVICE OBLIGATION.—The agreement of an  
21 officer or enlisted member under subsection (b) shall pro-  
22 vide that the officer or enlisted member shall serve on ac-  
23 tive duty for two years for each year or part thereof of  
24 chaplaincy training completed under subsection (a), except  
25 that the agreement may authorize the officer or enlisted



1 member to serve a portion of such service obligation on  
2 active duty and to complete the service obligation that re-  
3 mains upon separation from active duty in the Selected  
4 Reserve, in which case the officer or enlisted member shall  
5 serve three years in the Selected Reserve for each year  
6 or part thereof of the chaplaincy training of such officer  
7 or enlisted member under subsection (a) for any service  
8 obligation that was not completed before separation from  
9 active duty.

10 “(d) SELECTION OF OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEM-  
11 BERS FOR DETAIL.—Officers and enlisted members de-  
12 tailed for chaplaincy training under subsection (a) shall  
13 be selected on a competitive basis by the Secretary of the  
14 military department concerned.

15 “(e) RELATION OF SERVICE OBLIGATIONS TO OTHER  
16 SERVICE OBLIGATIONS.—Any service obligation incurred  
17 by an officer or enlisted member under an agreement en-  
18 tered into under subsection (b) shall be in addition to any  
19 service obligation incurred by such officer or enlisted any  
20 other provision of law or agreement.

21 “(f) EXPENSES.—Expenses incident to the detail of  
22 officers and enlisted members under this section shall be  
23 paid from any funds appropriated for the military depart-  
24 ment concerned.

1       “(g) FAILURE TO COMPLETE PROGRAM.—An officer  
2 or enlisted member who is dropped from a program of  
3 chaplaincy training to which detailed under subsection (a)  
4 for deficiency in conduct or studies, or for other reasons,  
5 may be required to—

6           “(1) perform active duty in an appropriate mili-  
7 tary capacity in accordance with the active duty obli-  
8 gation imposed by regulations issued by the Sec-  
9 retary of Defense, except that in no case shall an of-  
10 ficer or enlisted member be required to serve on ac-  
11 tive duty for any period in excess of one year for  
12 each year or part thereof he participated in the pro-  
13 gram; or

14           “(2) repay the expenses incident to the detail of  
15 such officer or enlisted member and paid under sub-  
16 section (f).

17       “(h) LIMITATION ON DETAILS.—No agreement de-  
18 tailing an officer or enlisted member of the armed forces  
19 to a chaplaincy school may be entered into during any pe-  
20 riod in which the President is authorized by law to induct  
21 persons into the armed forces involuntarily. Nothing in  
22 this subsection shall affect any agreement entered into  
23 during any period when the President is not authorized  
24 by law to so induct persons into the armed forces.”.

1 **SEC. 505 [log82877]. PROCEDURES FOR SELECTION OF**  
2 **SPACE FORCE OFFICERS FOR PROMOTION TO**  
3 **MAJOR GENERAL.**

4 (a) SELECTION BOARDS.—

5 (1) BOARDS TO RECOMMEND FOR PROMOTION  
6 TO MAJOR GENERAL OFFICERS WHO ARE EXCEP-  
7 TIONALLY WELL QUALIFIED.—Subsection (a) of sec-  
8 tion 20215 of title 10, United States Code, is  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 “(a) CRITERIA FOR RECOMMENDATION OF OFFICERS  
11 FOR PROMOTION.—(1) A selection board convened under  
12 section 20211 of this title to consider officers for pro-  
13 motion to a grade below major general shall recommend  
14 for promotion to the next higher grade those officers con-  
15 sidered by the board whom the board, giving due consider-  
16 ation to the needs of the Space Force for officers with  
17 particular skills (as noted in the guidelines or information  
18 furnished the board under section 615(b) of this title),  
19 considers best qualified for promotion within each com-  
20 petitive category considered by the board.

21 “(2) A selection board convened under section 20211  
22 of this title to consider officers for promotion to the grade  
23 of major general shall recommend for promotion to such  
24 grade those officers considered by the board whom the  
25 board considers exceptionally well qualified for pro-  
26 motion.”.

1           (2) REQUIREMENT FOR MAJORITY ACTION BY  
2     BOARD MEMBERS.—Subsection (c)(3) of such section  
3     is amended by inserting after “best qualified for pro-  
4     motion” the following: “(or, in the case of an officer  
5     recommended for promotion to the grade of major  
6     general, that the officer is exceptionally well quali-  
7     fied for promotion)”.

8           (3) INAPPLICABILITY OF PROVISION RELATING  
9     TO PROMOTION LIST ORDER.—Subsection (g)(1) of  
10    such section is amended by adding at the end the  
11    following new sentence: “This subsection does not  
12    apply to a selection board convened to consider offi-  
13    cer for recommendation to the grade of major gen-  
14    eral.”.

15          (4) REPORTS OF SELECTION BOARDS.—Section  
16    20216(a)(2)) of such title is amended by inserting  
17    after “best qualified for promotion” the following:  
18    “(or, in the case of officers recommended for pro-  
19    motion to the grade of major general, that the offi-  
20    cers are exceptionally well qualified for promotion)”.

21          (5) INAPPLICABILITY OF AUTHORITY TO AD-  
22    JUST PLACEMENT OF OFFICERS IN BOARD RE-  
23    PORT.—Section 20217 of such title is amended—

24                (A) in subsection (a), by striking “or  
25                major general”; and

1 (B) in the section heading, by striking the  
2 last three words.

3 (b) PROMOTIONS TO MAJOR GENERAL.—

4 (1) PROMOTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES.—Section  
5 20239 of such title is amended—

6 (A) in subsection (b)(3), by striking “Ex-  
7 cept as provided in subsections (e) and (f)” and  
8 inserting “Except as provided in subsections  
9 (d), (f), and (g)”;

10 (B) by redesignating subsections (d), (e),  
11 and (f) as subsections (e), (f), and (g), respec-  
12 tively; and

13 (C) by inserting after subsection (c) the  
14 following new subsection (d):

15 “(d) PROMOTION TO MAJOR GENERAL.—

16 “(1) CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR PRO-  
17 MOTION.—When the Senate gives it advice and con-  
18 sent to the promotion of an officer to the grade of  
19 major general, the Secretary of the Air Force shall  
20 issue to the officer a certificate of eligibility for pro-  
21 motion, dated as of the date on which the Senate  
22 gave its advice and consent.

23 “(2) PROMOTION TO FILL VACANCY.—Officers  
24 who have a certificate of eligibility under paragraph  
25 (1) shall be promoted to fill vacancies as they occur

1 in positions designated to carry the grade of major  
2 general. Such promotions shall be made in accord-  
3 ance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of  
4 the Air Force, based upon the needs of the service.

5 “(3) DURATION OF CERTIFICATE OF ELIGI-  
6 BILITY.—A certificate of eligibility issued under  
7 paragraph (1) expires at the end of the period begin-  
8 ning on the date as of when the certificate of eligi-  
9 bility was issued and ending on the first day of the  
10 eighteenth month following the month during which  
11 the certificate was so issued.”.

12 (2) REMOVAL FROM PROMOTION LIST.—Section  
13 20241 of such title is amended—

14 (A) by redesignating subsections (d), (e),  
15 and (f) as subsections (e), (f), and (g), respec-  
16 tively;

17 (B) by inserting after subsection (c) the  
18 following new subsection (d):

19 “(d) REMOVAL UPON EXPIRATION OF CERTIFICATE  
20 OF ELIGIBILITY.—If an officer who has been issued a cer-  
21 tificate of eligibility for promotion to the grade of major  
22 general under 20239(d) of this title is not appointed to  
23 such grade before the expiration of the certificate of eligi-  
24 bility pursuant to such section, the officer’s name shall  
25 be removed from the promotion list.”; and

1 (C) in paragraph (1) of subsection (f), as  
2 so redesignated—

3 (i) by striking “subsection (a), (b), or  
4 (c)” and inserting “subsection (a), (b), (c),  
5 or (d)”; and

6 (ii) by adding at the end the following  
7 new sentence: “The authority of the Sec-  
8 retary of the Air Force under the pre-  
9 ceding sentence does not apply in the case  
10 of such an officer who is promoted to the  
11 grade of major general following removal  
12 from a list under subsection (d).”.

13 (c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—  
14 Title 10, United States Code, is amended as follows:

15 (1) Section 615(a)(1) is amended by striking  
16 “or 20211”.

17 (2) Section 20203 is amended by redesignating  
18 the second subsection (b) and subsections (c), (d),  
19 (e), and (f) as subsections (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g),  
20 respectively.

21 (3) Section 20214 is amended by inserting be-  
22 fore the period at the end the following: “convened  
23 under section 20211 of this title in the same manner  
24 as to selection boards convened under section 611 of  
25 this title”.

1           (4) Section 20215(g)(1) is amended by striking  
2       “section 624(a)(1)” and inserting “section  
3       20239(a)(1)”.

4           (5) Section 20217(a) is amended by striking  
5       “section 20215” and inserting “section 20216”.

6           (6) Section 20231 is amended—

7               (A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “sec-  
8       tion 14101(a)” and inserting “section 20211”;  
9       and

10            (B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “sec-  
11       tion 20151” and inserting “section 20252”.

12           (7) Section 20239 is amended—

13               (A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking  
14       “modified” and inserting “adjusted”;

15               (B) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “sub-  
16       section (f)” and inserting “subsection (g)”.

17           (8) Section 20241(c) is amended by striking  
18       “section 20238(a)” in paragraphs (1) and (3) and  
19       inserting “section 20239(a)(1)”.

20           (9) Section 20251(a)(2) is amended by striking  
21       “section 14201” and inserting “section 14101”.



1   **SEC. 506 [log82367]. DESIGNATION OF AT LEAST ONE GEN-**  
2                   **ERAL OFFICER OF THE MARINE CORPS RE-**  
3                   **SERVE AS A JOINT QUALIFIED OFFICER.**

4       The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that at least  
5 one general officer of the Marine Corps Reserve is des-  
6 ignated as a joint qualified officer.

1     **Subtitle B—Reserve Component**  
2                   **Management**

3     **SEC. 511 [log82286]. GRADES OF CERTAIN CHIEFS OF RE-**  
4                   **SERVE COMPONENTS.**

5         (a) IN GENERAL.—

6             (1) CHIEF OF ARMY RESERVE.—Section  
7         7038(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended  
8         by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following  
9         new paragraph:

10         “(4) The Chief of Army Reserve, while so serving,  
11         holds the grade of lieutenant general.”.

12             (2) CHIEF OF NAVY RESERVE.—Section  
13         8083(b) of such title is amended by striking para-  
14         graph (4) and inserting the following new para-  
15         graph:

16         “(4) The Chief of Navy Reserve, while so serving,  
17         holds the grade of vice admiral.”.

18             (3) COMMANDER, MARINE FORCES RESERVE.—  
19         Section 8084(b) of such title is amended by striking  
20         paragraph (4) and inserting the following new para-  
21         graph:

22         “(4) The Commander, Marine Forces Reserve, while  
23         so serving, holds the grade of lieutenant general.”.

24             (4) CHIEF OF AIR FORCE RESERVE.—Section  
25         9038(b) of such title is amended by striking para-

1 graph (4) and inserting the following new para-  
2 graph:

3 “(4) The Chief of Air Force Reserve, while so serving,  
4 holds the grade of lieutenant general.”.

5 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
6 subsection (a) shall take effect on the day that is one year  
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply  
8 to appointments made on or after such day.

1 **SEC. 512 [Log 82617]. PROHIBITION ON CONSIDERATION OF**  
2 **AMOUNT OF TIME OF SERVICE IN ACTIVA-**  
3 **TION OF RESERVE MEMBERS.**

4 Chapter 1209 of title 10, United States Code, is  
5 amended by adding at the end the following new section:

6 **“§ 12324. Reserves: prohibition on consideration of**  
7 **amount of time of service in the armed**  
8 **forces for purposes of activation**

9 “(a) PROHIBITION.—In evaluating the suitability of  
10 a member of a reserve component to be ordered to active  
11 duty under any provision of law, the Secretary concerned  
12 may not consider—

13 “(1) the amount of time of service in the armed  
14 forces of such member;

15 “(2) the amount of time of service on active  
16 duty of such member; or

17 “(3) the amount of time of service on active  
18 duty by such member that would result in such  
19 member becoming eligible for retired pay or retainer  
20 pay under a purely military retirement system (other  
21 than the retirement system under chapter 1223 of  
22 this title).

23 “(b) INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR CONSIDER-  
24 ATION.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary con-  
25 cerned—

1           “(1) shall ensure that no information regarding  
2           the amount of time of service in the armed forces of  
3           a member or the age of such member is made avail-  
4           able to any person evaluating such member for suit-  
5           ability for active duty; and

6           “(2) may provide that information on relevant  
7           experience of a member, including the amount of  
8           time a member has performed duties relevant to the  
9           duty for which such member is being considered, is  
10          made available to a person evaluating such member  
11          for suitability for active duty.”.

1 **SEC. 513 [log82832]. NATIONAL GUARD: ACTIVE GUARD AND**  
2 **RESERVE DUTY IN RESPONSE TO A STATE**  
3 **DISASTER.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 32, United  
5 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 328 the  
6 following new section:

7 **“§ 328A. Active Guard and Reserve duty: State dis-**  
8 **aster response duty**

9 “(a) AUTHORITY.—The chief executive of a State  
10 who has declared a emergency in such State due to a dis-  
11 aster, may, with the consent of the Secretary of Defense,  
12 order a member of the National Guard of such State, who  
13 is performing Active Guard and Reserve duty pursuant to  
14 section 328 of this title, to perform duties in response to,  
15 or in preparation for, such disaster. Duty performed under  
16 this section shall be referred to as ‘State disaster response  
17 duty’.

18 “(b) REQUIREMENTS.—State disaster response duty  
19 performed pursuant to this section—

20 “(1) shall be on a reimbursable basis, in accord-  
21 ance with subsection (c);

22 “(2) may be performed to the extent that the  
23 performance of such duty does not interfere with the  
24 performance of the member’s primary Active Guard  
25 and Reserve duties of organizing, administering, re-

1       cruiting, instructing, and training the reserve com-  
2       ponents; and

3           “(3) shall not exceed a total of 14 days per  
4       member per calendar year, except that the Secretary  
5       of Defense may, if the chief executive so requests be-  
6       fore the end of the 14th such day, authorize an ex-  
7       tension of the duration of such duty, not to exceed  
8       an additional—

9           “(A) 7 days, if the Secretary determines  
10       that such extension is appropriate; and

11           “(B) 46 days if the Secretary determines  
12       that such duty is in support of the response to  
13       a catastrophic incident, as such term is defined  
14       in section 501 of the Homeland Security Act of  
15       2002 (6 U.S.C. 311).

16       “(c) REIMBURSEMENT.—(1) The Secretary of the  
17       military department concerned shall charge a State for the  
18       fully burdened costs of manpower for each day of State  
19       disaster response duty performed pursuant to this section.

20       “(2) Such charges shall be paid from the funds of  
21       the State of the requesting chief executive or from any  
22       other non-Federal funds.

23       “(3) Any amounts received by a Secretary of a mili-  
24       tary department under this section shall be credited, at  
25       the discretion of the Secretary of Defense, to—

1           “(A) the appropriation, fund, or account used  
2           to pay such costs; or

3           “(B) an appropriation, fund, or account avail-  
4           able for the purposes for which such costs were in-  
5           curred.

6           “(4) If the State of the requesting chief executive is  
7           more than 90 days in arrears in reimbursing the Secretary  
8           of the military department concerned for State disaster  
9           response duty performed pursuant to this section, such  
10          duty may not be performed—

11          “(A) unless authorized by the Secretary of De-  
12          fense; and

13          “(B) after the requesting chief executive obli-  
14          gates funds for the amount in arrears.

15          “(d) LIMITATION OF LIABILITY.—While performing  
16          State disaster response duty under this section, a member  
17          of the National Guard is not an instrumentality of the  
18          United States with respect to any act or omission in car-  
19          rying out such duty. The United States shall not be re-  
20          sponsible for any claim or judgment arising from the use  
21          of a member of the National Guard under this section.

22          “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23                 “(1) The term ‘Active Guard and Reserve duty’  
24                 has the meaning given such term in section 101 of  
25                 title 10.



1           “(2) The term ‘State’ has the meaning given  
2           such term in section 901 of this title.”.

3           (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after  
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
5 Defense shall prescribe regulations under section 328A of  
6 such title, as added by subsection (a).

1 **Subtitle C—General Service Au-**  
2 **thorities, Decorations and**  
3 **Awards, and Military Records**

4 **SEC. 521 [Log 82506]. CODIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL BASIC**  
5 **BRANCHES OF THE ARMY.**

6 Section 7063(a) of title 10, United States Code, is  
7 amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (12), by striking “; and” and  
9 inserting a semicolon;

10 (2) by redesignating paragraph (13) as para-  
11 graph (24); and

12 (3) by inserting after paragraph (12) the fol-  
13 lowing new paragraphs:

14 “(13) Air Defense Artillery;

15 “(14) Aviation;

16 “(15) Cavalry Scout;

17 “(16) Psychological Operations;

18 “(17) Special Forces;

19 “(18) Civil Affairs;

20 “(19) Cyber;

21 “(20) Electronic Warfare;

22 “(21) Military Intelligence;

23 “(22) Public Affairs;

24 “(23) Army Music; and”.

1 **SEC. 522 [log82749]. AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARD OF**  
2 **MEDAL OF HONOR TO JAMES CAPERS, JR.,**  
3 **FOR ACTS OF VALOR AS A MEMBER OF THE**  
4 **MARINE CORPS DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.**

5 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding the time lim-  
6 itations specified in section 8298 of title 10, United States  
7 Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the  
8 awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the  
9 Armed Forces, the President is authorized to award the  
10 Medal of Honor, under section 8291 of such title, to  
11 James Capers, Jr., for the acts of valor described in sub-  
12 section (b).

13 (b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor  
14 described in this subsection are the actions of James Ca-  
15 pers, Jr., as a member of the Marine Corps, during the  
16 period of March 31 through April 3, 1967, during the  
17 Vietnam War, for which he was previously awarded the  
18 Silver Star.

1                   **Subtitle D—Recruitment**

2   **SEC. 531 [log82378]. RECRUITMENT: IMPROVEMENTS RE-**  
3                   **LATING TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND INSTI-**  
4                   **TUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

5           (a) RECRUITING AT SECONDARY SCHOOLS.—Section  
6   503(c)(1)(A) of title 10, United States Code, is amend-  
7   ed—

8                   (1) in clause (i), by striking “the same access  
9           to secondary school students as is provided generally  
10          to postsecondary educational institutions or to pro-  
11          spective employers of those students” and inserting  
12          “meaningful access to secondary schools (including  
13          at least four visits across each academic year, be-  
14          tween classes, when students are physically present,  
15          and in a manner that does not interfere with class  
16          attendance), and, after reasonable notice, in meeting  
17          spaces including auditoriums, at athletic functions,  
18          and at other group or social activities”; and

19                  (2) in clause (iii)—

20                       (A) by inserting “during the first 60 days  
21                       of the academic year, and not later than 30  
22                       days after receiving such request during an-  
23                       other period of time” after “receiving such re-  
24                       quest”; and

1 (B) by inserting “academic grades, sexes,”  
2 after “student names,”.

3 (b) RECRUITING AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDU-  
4 CATION.—Section 983(b) of title 10, United States Code,  
5 is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “in a manner  
7 that is at least equal in quality and scope to the ac-  
8 cess to campuses and to students that is provided to  
9 any other employer” and inserting “(including at  
10 least four visits across each academic year, between  
11 classes, when students are physically present, and in  
12 a manner that does not interfere with class attend-  
13 ance), and, after reasonable notice, in meeting  
14 spaces including auditoriums, at athletic functions,  
15 and at other group or social activities”; and

16 (2) in paragraph (2)—

17 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

18 (i) by inserting “academic grades,  
19 sexes,” after “names,”;

20 (ii) by striking “60th day following  
21 the date of a request” and inserting “60  
22 days after receiving a request during the  
23 first 60 days of the academic year, and not  
24 later than 30 days after the date of a re-  
25 quest during another period of time”; and

1 (iii) by striking “; and” and inserting  
2 a semicolon;

3 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the  
4 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
6 subparagraph:

7 “(C) whether the student submitted a Free  
8 Application for Federal Student Aid described  
9 in section 483 of the Higher Education Act of  
10 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1090) (if collected by the in-  
11 stitution); and”;

12 (3) by adding at the end the following new  
13 paragraph:

14 “(3) access by military recruiters for purposes  
15 of military recruiting, with respect to students (who  
16 are 17 years of age or older) not returning to the  
17 institution after having been enrolled during the pre-  
18 vious semester—

19 “(A) the information required under para-  
20 graph (2); and

21 “(B) the reason why such students did not  
22 return, if collected by the institution.”.

23 (c) TYPES OF AFFILIATION FOR JROTC UNITS.—

24 (1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of De-  
25 fense may establish, with regards to the Junior Re-

1       serve Officers’ Training Corps (hereinafter,  
2       “JROTC”) , the following types of affiliation:

3               (A) HOST UNIT.—A host unit is a unit at  
4               a secondary educational institution that has at  
5               least one instructor for the unit and has en-  
6               tered into a memorandum of understanding  
7               under section 2031(b) of title 10, United States  
8               Code.

9               (B) CROSS-TOWN UNIT.—A cross-town  
10              unit is a unit that operates without an instruc-  
11              tor pursuant to section 2035(b)(2)(B) of title  
12              10, United States Code, and has entered into  
13              an agreement with a host unit to allow students  
14              of the cross-town unit to participate in JROTC  
15              activities at the campus of the host unit.

16             (2) GUIDANCE.—If the Secretary establishes  
17             the types of affiliation under paragraph (1), the Sec-  
18             retary shall prescribe guidance that clarifies the  
19             roles, responsibilities, and requirements for each  
20             such type.

21             (3) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after  
22             the Secretary creates such types of affiliation, the  
23             Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed  
24             Services of the Senate and House of Representatives

1 a report on such affiliations. Such a report shall in-  
2 clude the following elements:

3 (A) The number and locations of cross-  
4 town units.

5 (B) Total enrollment numbers for each  
6 cross-town units.

7 (C) Recommendations for further improve-  
8 ments or changes to enhance the effectiveness  
9 of JROTC.

10 (d) REPORT ON HONOR SCHOOLS.—Not later than  
11 September 30, 2026, the Secretary of Defense shall sub-  
12 mit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate  
13 and House of Representatives a report on schools des-  
14 ignated as honor schools by the Secretaries of the Army,  
15 Navy, and Air Force. Such report shall include the fol-  
16 lowing elements:

17 (1) The criteria for such designation.

18 (2) A list of schools so designated.

19 (3) The percentage of honor graduates of honor  
20 schools who, after nomination pursuant to sub-  
21 section (b)(4) of section 7442, 8454, or 9442 of title  
22 10, United States Code, enroll as cadets or mid-  
23 shipmen at a Service Academy (as such term is de-  
24 fined in section 347 of title 10, United States Code).



1 **SEC. 532 [log82379]. ALTERNATIVE SERVICE IN THE DE-**  
2 **FENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE BY INDIVIDUALS**  
3 **DENIED ENLISTMENT.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 504 of title 10, United  
5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
6 lowing new subsection:

7 “(c) ALTERNATIVE SERVICE IN THE DEFENSE IN-  
8 DUSTRIAL BASE.—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall  
9 carry out a program to provide to an individual described  
10 in paragraph (2) information about with opportunities to  
11 work in the defense industrial base.

12 “(2) An individual described in this paragraph is an  
13 individual who seeks to originally enlist in an armed force  
14 but is denied enlistment.

15 “(3) In carrying out the program, the Secretary  
16 shall—

17 “(A) identify job opportunities in the defense  
18 industrial base;

19 “(B) provide available information about train-  
20 ing or certification programs to obtain the skills nec-  
21 essary for such a job; and

22 “(C) seek to enter into agreements with entities  
23 in the defense industrial base.

24 “(4) The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the  
25 Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the  
26 House of Representatives an annual report on the pro-

1 gram under this subsection. Such a report shall include,  
2 with respect to the year preceding the date of the report,  
3 the following elements:

4           “(A) The number of individuals described in  
5 paragraph (2) provided information described in  
6 paragraph (3)(A).

7           “(B) The number of individuals described in  
8 paragraph (2) provided information described in  
9 paragraph (3)(B).

10           “(C) The number of agreements described in  
11 paragraph (3)(C) into which the Secretary entered.”.

12       (b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date  
13 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense  
14 shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the  
15 Senate and the House of Representatives a report regard-  
16 ing the implementation of subsection (c) of such section,  
17 as added by subsection (a).

1     **Subtitle E—Member Training and**  
2                     **Education**

3     **SEC. 541 [log82879]. INCLUSION OF SPACE FORCE EDU-**  
4                     **CATION PROGRAMS IN DEFINITIONS RE-**  
5                     **GARDING PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDU-**  
6                     **CATION.**

7             (a) SENIOR AND INTERMEDIATE LEVEL SERVICE  
8     SCHOOLS.—Section 2151(b) of title 10, United States  
9     Code, is amended—

10             (1) by adding at the end of paragraph (1) the  
11             following new subparagraph:

12                     “(E) The Space Force Senior Level Edu-  
13                     cation Program.”; and

14             (2) by adding at the end of paragraph (2) the  
15             following new subparagraph:

16                     “(E) The Space Force Intermediate Level  
17                     Education Program.”.

18             (b) BUDGET REQUESTS FOR PROFESSIONAL MILI-  
19     TARY EDUCATION.—Section 2162(d) of such title is  
20     amended by adding at the end the following new para-  
21     graphs:

22                     “(9) The Space Force Senior Level Education  
23                     Program.

24                     “(10) The Space Force Intermediate Level  
25                     Education Program.”.

1   **SEC. 542 [Log 82160]. MODIFICATION TO THE DESIGNATION**  
2                   **OF MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENT-**  
3                   **ATIVES TO THE BOARDS OF VISITORS OF**  
4                   **SERVICE ACADEMIES.**

5       (a) UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY.—Section  
6   7455(a)(8) of title 10, United States Code, is amended  
7   by striking “one other member” and inserting “two other  
8   members”.

9       (b) UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY.—Section  
10   8468(a)(8) of title 10, United States Code, is amended  
11   by striking “one other member” and inserting “two other  
12   members”.

13       (c) UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY.—Section  
14   9455(a)(8) of title 10, United States Code, is amended  
15   by striking “one other member” and inserting “two other  
16   members”.

1 **SEC. 543 [Log 82566]. DETAIL OF MEMBERS OF THE SPACE**  
2 **FORCE AS INSTRUCTORS AT AIR FORCE IN-**  
3 **STITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9414 of title 10, United  
5 States Code, is amended—

6 (1) by striking the heading and inserting the  
7 following new heading:

8 **“§ 9414. United States Air Force Institute of Tech-**  
9 **nology: degree granting authority; fac-**  
10 **ulty, reimbursement and tuition; accept-**  
11 **ance of research grants”;**

12 (2) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as  
13 subsections (f) and (g), respectively; and

14 (3) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-  
15 lowing new subsection:

16 “(e) SPACE FORCE FACULTY.—(1) The Secretary  
17 shall detail members of the Space Force as instructors at  
18 the United States Air Force Institute of Technology to  
19 provide instruction in areas that support the mission of  
20 the Space Force.

21 “(2) The number of members of the Space Force de-  
22 tailed by the Secretary to the United States Air Force In-  
23 stitute of Technology as instructors during an academic  
24 year shall be equal to or greater than the product of—

1           “(A) the total number of members of the Space  
2       Force divided by the total number of members of the  
3       Space Force and the Air Force; and

4           “(B) the total number of instructors at the  
5       United States Air Force Institute of Technology.”.

6       (b) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date  
7       of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air  
8       Force shall submit to the congressional defense commit-  
9       tees a report on the implementation of subsection (e) of  
10      section 9414 of title 10, United States Code, as added by  
11      subsection (a) of this section, including—

12           (1) an identification of the number, academic  
13      specialties, and courses of instruction of the mem-  
14      bers of the Space Force detailed as instructors at  
15      the United States Air Force Institute of Technology;  
16      and

17           (2) an assessment of the contributions of those  
18      instructors to Space Force objectives.

1 **SEC. 544 [log82615]. REPEAL OF ANNUAL CERTIFICATIONS**  
2 **RELATED TO THE READY, RELEVANT LEARN-**  
3 **ING INITIATIVE OF THE NAVY.**

4 Section 545 of the National Defense Authorization  
5 Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115–91; 10 U.S.C.  
6 8431 note prec.) is repealed.

1       **Subtitle F—Career Transition**

2       **SEC. 551 [log82760]. PRESENTATION BY A VETERANS SERV-**  
3                   **ICE ORGANIZATION IN TAP PRESEPARATION**  
4                   **COUNSELING.**

5       (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1142(b) of title 10,  
6 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the  
7 following new paragraph:

8               “(20) A presentation that promotes the benefits  
9 available to veterans under laws administered by the  
10 Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Such presentation—

11               “(A) shall be standardized;

12               “(B) shall be previously reviewed and ap-  
13 proved by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

14               “(C) shall be submitted by the Secretary of  
15 Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Vet-  
16 erans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Rep-  
17 resentatives for review at least 90 days before  
18 implementation;

19               “(D) shall be presented by—

20               “(i) a national representative of a vet-  
21 erans service organization recognized  
22 under section 5902 of title 38; or

23               “(ii) if a national representative is un-  
24 available, a State or local representative of



1           such an organization authorized by the  
2           Secretary concerned to so present;

3           “(E) shall include information on how a  
4           veterans service organization may assist the  
5           member in filing a claim described in paragraph  
6           (19);

7           “(F) may not encourage the member to  
8           join a particular veterans service organization;  
9           and

10          “(G) may not exceed one hour in length.”.

11          (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not less than once each year  
12 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
13 of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Serv-  
14 ices of the Senate and House of Representatives, and to  
15 the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and  
16 House of Representatives, a report—

17           (1) that identifies each veterans service organi-  
18           zation that presented under paragraph (20) of sec-  
19           tion 1142(b) of title 10, United States Code, as  
20           added by subsection (a);

21           (2) that contains the number of members of the  
22           Armed Forces who attended such presentations; and

23           (3) that includes any recommendations of the  
24           Secretary regarding changes to such presentation or  
25           to such paragraph.

1     **Subtitle G—Family Programs and**  
2                     **Child Care**

3     **SEC. 561 [Log 82461]. EXTENSION OF PILOT PROGRAM TO**  
4                     **PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO MEM-**  
5                     **BERS OF THE ARMED FORCES FOR IN-HOME**  
6                     **CHILD CARE.**

7             (a) EXTENSION.—Subsection (d) of section 589 of  
8     the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Au-  
9     thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (10 U.S.C. 1791  
10    note) is amended by striking “five years after” and all  
11    that follows and inserting “on December 31, 2029.”.

12            (b) FINAL REPORT.—Subsection (c)(2) of such sec-  
13    tion is amended by striking “90 days after” and inserting  
14    “one year before”.

1 **SEC. 572 [Log 82657]. VERIFICATION OF REPORTING OF ELI-**  
2 **GIBLE FEDERALLY CONNECTED CHILDREN**  
3 **FOR PURPOSES OF FEDERAL IMPACT AID**  
4 **PROGRAMS.**

5 (a) CERTIFICATION.—On an annual basis, each com-  
6 mander of a military installation under the jurisdiction of  
7 the Secretary of a military department shall submit to  
8 such Secretary a written certification verifying whether  
9 the commander has confirmed the information contained  
10 in all impact aid source check forms received from local  
11 educational agencies as of the date of such certification.

12 (b) REPORT.—Not later than June 30 of each year,  
13 each Secretary of a military department shall submit to  
14 the congressional defense committees a report, based on  
15 the information received under subsection (a), that identi-  
16 fies—

17 (1) each military installation under the jurisdic-  
18 tion of such Secretary that has confirmed the infor-  
19 mation contained in all impact aid source check  
20 forms received from local educational agencies as of  
21 the date of the report; and

22 (2) each military installation that has not con-  
23 firmed the information contained in such forms as of  
24 such date.

25 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

- 1           (1) The term “impact aid source check form”  
2       means a form submitted to a military installation by  
3       a local educational agency to confirm the number  
4       and identity of children eligible to be counted for  
5       purposes of the Federal impact aid program under  
6       section 7003(a) of the Elementary and Secondary  
7       Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7703(a)).
- 8           (2) The term “local educational agency” has  
9       the meaning given that term in section 8101 of the  
10      Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965  
11      (20 U.S.C. 7801).

1     **Subtitle A—Basic Pay and Retired**  
2                                   **Pay**

3     **SEC. 601 [Log 82880]. CODIFICATION OF APPLICABILITY TO**  
4                                   **SPACE FORCE OF CERTAIN PAY AND ALLOW-**  
5                                   **ANCE AUTHORITIES.**

6             (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 101 of title 37, United  
7 States Code, is amended—

8                     (1) in paragraph (22), by inserting “, or for  
9 members of the Space Force in space force active  
10 status not on sustained duty,” after “reserve compo-  
11 nent” in subparagraphs (A) and (B); and

12                    (2) by adding at the end the following new  
13 paragraphs:

14                    “(27) The term ‘space force active status’ has  
15 the meaning given that term in section 101 of title  
16 10.

17                    “(28) The term ‘sustained duty’ has the mean-  
18 ing given that term in section 101 of title 10.”.

19             (b) BASIC PAY.—Chapter 3 of such title is amended  
20 as follows:

21                     (1) REFERENCES TO OFFICER GRADES.—Sec-  
22 tion 201(a) of such title is amended—

23                             (A) by striking “(1) Subject to paragraph  
24 (2), for the” and inserting “For the”;

1 (B) by striking “and Marine Corps” in the  
2 heading of the second column of the table and  
3 inserting “Marine Corps, and Space Force”;  
4 and

5 (C) by striking paragraph (2).

6 (2) APPLICABLE PAY AND ALLOWANCES FOR  
7 CERTAIN SPACE FORCE MEMBERS WHO ARE PHYS-  
8 ICALLY DISABLED OR INCUR LOSS OF EARNED IN-  
9 COME WHEN NOT ON SUSTAINED DUTY.—Sub-  
10 sections (g)(1) and (h)(1) of section 204 of such  
11 title are amended by inserting “, or a member of the  
12 Space Force in space force active status not on sus-  
13 tained duty,” after “of a reserve component of a  
14 uniformed service”.

15 (3) SERVICE CREDITABLE FOR COMPUTA-  
16 TION.—Section 205(a)(2) of such title is amended—

17 (A) by transferring subparagraph (F) to  
18 appear after subparagraph (A) and redesign-  
19 ating that subparagraph as subparagraph (B);

20 (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (D)  
21 and (E) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respec-  
22 tively;

23 (C) by striking subparagraph (C) and re-  
24 designating the original subparagraph (B) as  
25 subparagraph (D); and

1 (D) by inserting after subparagraph (B),  
2 as transferred and redesignated by paragraph  
3 (1), the following new subparagraph (C):

4 “(C) the Space Force;”.

5 (4) INACTIVE-DUTY TRAINING PAY.—Section  
6 206 of such title is amended—

7 (A) in subsection (a), in the matter pre-  
8 ceding paragraph (1)—

9 (i) by striking “Guard or a” and in-  
10 serting “Guard, a”; and

11 (ii) by inserting “, or a member of the  
12 Space Force” after “uniformed service”  
13 the first place it appears;

14 (B) in subsection (d)—

15 (i) in paragraph (1), by inserting “,  
16 by a member of the Space Force,” after  
17 “reserve component”; and

18 (ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or  
19 the Space Force,” after “Ready Reserve”;  
20 (C) in subsection (e)—

21 (i) by striking “Guard or of a” and  
22 inserting “Guard, a”; and

23 (ii) by inserting “, or the Space  
24 Force” after “uniformed services”; and

1 (D) in the section heading, by inserting “;  
2 **MEMBERS OF THE SPACE FORCE**” before  
3 the colon.

4 (5) PARTICIPATION IN THRIFT SAVINGS  
5 PLAN.—Section 211(a)(2) of such title is amended  
6 by inserting “or the Space Force” after “member of  
7 the Ready Reserve”.

8 (c) SPECIAL PAY, INCENTIVE PAY, AND BONUS AU-  
9 THORITIES.—Subchapter II of chapter 5 of such title is  
10 amended as follows:

11 (1) GENERAL BONUS AUTHORITY FOR EN-  
12 LISTED MEMBERS.—Section 331 of such title is  
13 amended—

14 (A) in subsection (a)—

15 (i) by striking “or” at the end of  
16 paragraph (4);

17 (ii) by striking the period at the end  
18 of paragraph (5) and inserting “; or”; and

19 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
20 lowing new paragraph:

21 “(6) transfers from a regular component or re-  
22 serve component of an armed force to the Space  
23 Force or from the Space Force to a regular compo-  
24 nent or reserve component of another armed force,  
25 subject to the approval of the Secretary with juris-



1       diction over the armed force to which the member is  
2       transferring.”; and

3               (B) in subsection (c)(1)—

4                   (i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting  
5                   “, or in the Space Force on sustained duty  
6                   under section 20105 of title 10,” after “in  
7                   a regular component”;

8                   (ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting  
9                   “, or in the Space Force in space force ac-  
10                  tive status not on sustained duty under  
11                  section 20105 of title 10,” after “in a re-  
12                  serve component”; and

13                  (iii) in subparagraph (D), by striking  
14                  “paragraph (4) or (5)” and inserting  
15                  “paragraph (4), (5), or (6)”.

16               (2) GENERAL BONUS AUTHORITY FOR OFFI-  
17       CERS.—Section 332 of such title is amended—

18               (A) in subsection (a)—

19                   (i) by striking “or” at the end of  
20                   paragraph (4);

21                   (ii) by striking the period at the end  
22                   of paragraph (5) and inserting “; or”; and

23                   (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
24                  lowing new paragraph:

1 “(6) transfers from a regular component or re-  
2 serve component of a uniformed service to the Space  
3 Force or from the Space Force to a regular compo-  
4 nent or reserve component of another uniformed  
5 service, subject to the approval of the Secretary with  
6 jurisdiction over the uniformed service to which the  
7 member is transferring.”; and

8 (B) in subsection (c)(1)—

9 (i) in subparagraph (C), by inserting  
10 “, or in the Space Force on sustained duty  
11 under section 20105 of title 10,” after “in  
12 a regular component”;

13 (ii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting  
14 “, or in the Space Force in space force ac-  
15 tive status not on sustained duty under  
16 section 20105 of title 10,” after “in a re-  
17 serve component” and

18 (iii) in subparagraph (E), by striking  
19 “paragraph (4) or (5)” and inserting  
20 “paragraph (4), (5), or (6)”.

21 (3) SPECIAL AVIATION INCENTIVE PAY OR  
22 BONUS FOR OFFICERS.—Section 334 of such title is  
23 amended—

1 (A) by striking “in a regular or reserve  
2 component” in subsections (a)(1), (b), (h)(1),  
3 (h)(2), and (h)(3);

4 (B) in subsection (b)(3), by inserting “, or,  
5 in the case of an officer of the Space Force, to  
6 remain in space force active status,” after “in  
7 a reserve component”; and

8 (C) in subsection (e)—

9 (i) in the subsection heading, by strik-  
10 ing “RESERVE COMPONENT”; and

11 (ii) by striking “A reserve component  
12 officer” and inserting “An officer.”.

13 (4) SPECIAL PAYS.—Sections 351(a), 352(a),  
14 353(a), and 353(b) of such title are amended by  
15 striking “of a regular or reserve component”.

16 (5) RETENTION INCENTIVES FOR MEMBERS  
17 QUALIFIED IN CRITICAL MILITARY SKILLS OR AS-  
18 SIGNED TO HIGH PRIORITY UNITS.—Section 355 of  
19 such title is amended—

20 (A) in subsection (a)—

21 (i) in the matter preceding paragraph

22 (1)—

23 (I) by striking “An officer or en-  
24 listed member” and inserting “A  
25 member”; and

1 (II) by inserting “, or a member  
2 the Space Force who is serving in  
3 space force active status,” after “in a  
4 reserve component”; and

5 (ii) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or  
6 to remain in space force active status for  
7 at least one year” before the semicolon at  
8 the end;

9 (B) in subsection (d)(1), by inserting “or  
10 a member of the Space Force not on sustained  
11 duty” in the second sentence after “reserve  
12 component member”; and

13 (C) in subsection (e)—

14 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking “ac-  
15 tive duty or service in an active status in  
16 a reserve component” in subparagraph (A)  
17 and the first place it appears in subpara-  
18 graph (B) and inserting “a specified form  
19 of service (or combination thereof);

20 (ii) in paragraphs (1)(B), (2), (3),  
21 and (4), by striking “active duty or service  
22 in an active status in a reserve component  
23 for which” and inserting “service for  
24 which”; and

1 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
2 lowing new paragraph:

3 “(5) In this subsection, the term ‘specified form  
4 of service’ means—

5 “(A) service on active duty;

6 “(B) service in an active status in a re-  
7 serve component; or

8 “(C) service in the Space Force in space  
9 force active status.”.

10 (6) CONTINUATION PAY FOR FULL TSP MEM-  
11 BERS WITH 7 TO 12 YEARS OF SERVICE.—Section  
12 356(b) of such title is amended—

13 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph  
14 (1)—

15 (i) in the second sentence, by striking  
16 “or a reserve component” and inserting “,  
17 a member of the Space Force on sustained  
18 duty, or a member of a reserve compo-  
19 nent”; and

20 (ii) in the third sentence, by inserting  
21 “or a member of the Space Force in space  
22 force active status not on sustained duty”  
23 after “(as so defined)”;

24 (B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or a  
25 member of the Space Force on sustained duty”

1 in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) after  
2 “of a regular component”; and

3 (C) in paragraph (2)—

4 (i) by inserting “or a member of the  
5 Space Force in space force active status  
6 and not on sustained duty” in the matter  
7 preceding subparagraph (A) after “of a re-  
8 serve component”; and

9 (ii) by inserting “or a member of the  
10 Space Force on sustained duty, respec-  
11 tively,” in subparagraph (A) after “of a  
12 regular component”.

13 (d) ADMINISTRATION OF SPECIAL PAY, INCENTIVE  
14 PAY, AND BONUS AUTHORITIES.—Subchapter III of chap-  
15 ter 5 of such title is amended as follows:

16 (1) CONTINUATION OF PAY AND ALLOWANCES  
17 DURING CERTAIN HOSPITALIZATION AND REHABILI-  
18 TATION.—Section 372(a) of such title is amended by  
19 striking “of a regular or reserve component”.

20 (2) REPAYMENT OF UNEARNED PORTION OF  
21 BONUS OR SPECIAL OR INCENTIVE PAY.—Section  
22 373(d)(2)(A) of such title is amended by striking “in  
23 a regular or reserve component who remains on ac-  
24 tive duty or in an active status” and inserting “who

1 remains on active duty, in an active status in a re-  
2 serve component, or in space force active status”.

3 (e) ALLOWANCES OTHER THAN TRAVEL AND TRANS-  
4 PORTATION ALLOWANCES.—Section 416 of such title is  
5 amended by inserting “an officer of the Space Force not  
6 on sustained duty,” after “of component,”.

7 (f) LEAVE.—Section 501 of such title is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a)—

9 (A) by inserting “, or of the Space Force,”  
10 in paragraphs (4) and (5) after “of a reserve  
11 component”; and

12 (B) by inserting “, or from the Space  
13 Force,” in paragraph (4) after “from the re-  
14 serve component”; and

15 (2) in subsection (b)(5)—

16 (A) in subparagraphs (A) and (D), by in-  
17 serting “, or a member of the Space Force in  
18 space force active status not on sustained  
19 duty,” after “of a reserve component”; and

20 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “Reg-  
21 ular” before “Space Force”.

22 (g) MISCELLANEOUS RIGHTS AND BENEFITS.—  
23 Chapter 17 of such title is amended as follows:

24 (1) Section 908(a)(2) of such title is amended  
25 by inserting “and members of the Space Force in

1 space force active status not on sustained duty”  
2 after “of the armed forces”.

3 (2) Section 910 of such title is amended—

4 (A) by inserting “or of the Space Force”  
5 after “of the armed forces” in subsection (a);

6 (B) by inserting “or the Space Force”  
7 after “a reserve component” in subsections  
8 (b)(1), (b)(2), (b)(3), and (e)(1); and

9 (C) in the heading of such section by in-  
10 serting “**AND MEMBERS OF THE SPACE**  
11 **FORCE**” after “**RESERVE COMPONENT**  
12 **MEMBERS**”.

13 (h) ADMINISTRATION.—Section 1002 of such title is  
14 amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a)—

16 (A) by striking “of the National Guard, or  
17 of a reserve component of a uniformed service,”  
18 and inserting “of a reserve component of a uni-  
19 formed service, or of the Space Force”; and

20 (B) by striking “his consent” and inserting  
21 “the member’s consent”; and

22 (C) in subsection (c), by inserting “or the  
23 Space Force” after “of a reserve component”;  
24 and



1           (2) in the heading, by striking “**AND MEM-**  
2       **BERS OF NATIONAL GUARD**” and inserting “;  
3       **MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD; MEM-**  
4       **BERS OF THE SPACE FORCE**”.

5       (i) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO REFLECT CHANGE  
6 OF NAME OF SPACE AND MISSILE SYSTEMS CENTER TO  
7 SPACE SYSTEMS COMMAND.—Section 2273a(a) of title  
8 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “Air  
9 Force Space and Missile Systems Center” and inserting  
10 “Space Force Space Systems Command”.

1     **Subtitle B—Bonus and Incentive**  
2                     **Pays**

3     **SEC. 611 [Log 82721]. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF CERTAIN**  
4                     **EXPIRING BONUS AND SPECIAL PAY AU-**  
5                     **THORITIES.**

6         (a)    AUTHORITIES    RELATING    TO    RESERVE  
7    FORCES.—Section 910(g) of title 37, United States Code,  
8    relating to income replacement payments for reserve com-  
9    ponent members experiencing extended and frequent mo-  
10   bilization for active duty service, is amended by striking  
11   “December 31, 2025” and inserting “December 31,  
12   2026”.

13        (b)    TITLE 10 AUTHORITIES RELATING TO HEALTH  
14    CARE PROFESSIONALS.—The following sections of title  
15    10, United States Code, are amended by striking “Decem-  
16   ber 31, 2025” and inserting “December 31, 2026”:

17            (1) Section 2130a(a)(1), relating to nurse offi-  
18    cer candidate accession program.

19            (2) Section 16302(d), relating to repayment of  
20    education loans for certain health professionals who  
21    serve in the Selected Reserve.

22        (c)    AUTHORITIES    RELATING    TO    NUCLEAR OFFI-  
23    CERS.—Section 333(i) of title 37, United States Code, is  
24    amended by striking “December 31, 2025” and inserting  
25    “December 31, 2026”.

1 (d) AUTHORITIES RELATING TO TITLE 37 CONSOLI-  
2 DATED SPECIAL PAY, INCENTIVE PAY, AND BONUS AU-  
3 THORITIES.—The following sections of title 37, United  
4 States Code, are amended by striking “December 31,  
5 2025” and inserting “December 31, 2026”:

6 (1) Section 331(h), relating to general bonus  
7 authority for enlisted members.

8 (2) Section 332(g), relating to general bonus  
9 authority for officers.

10 (3) Section 334(i), relating to special aviation  
11 incentive pay and bonus authorities for officers.

12 (4) Section 335(k), relating to special bonus  
13 and incentive pay authorities for officers in health  
14 professions.

15 (5) Section 336(g), relating to contracting  
16 bonus for cadets and midshipmen enrolled in the  
17 Senior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps.

18 (6) Section 351(h), relating to hazardous duty  
19 pay.

20 (7) Section 352(g), relating to assignment pay  
21 or special duty pay.

22 (8) Section 353(i), relating to skill incentive  
23 pay or proficiency bonus.

1           (9) Section 355(h), relating to retention incen-  
2           tives for members qualified in critical military skills  
3           or assigned to high priority units.

4           (e) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY INCREASE  
5   IN RATES OF BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING.—Section  
6   403(b) of title 37, United States Code, is amended—

7           (1) in paragraph (7)(E), relating to an area  
8           covered by a major disaster declaration or con-  
9           taining an installation experiencing an influx of mili-  
10          tary personnel, by striking “December 31, 2025”  
11          and inserting “December 31, 2026”; and

12          (2) in paragraph (8)(C), relating to an area  
13          where actual housing costs differ from current rates  
14          by more than 20 percent, by striking “December 31,  
15          2025” and inserting “December 31, 2026”.

1 **SEC. 612 [Log 82385]. INCENTIVE PAY: EXPLOSIVE ORD-**  
2 **NANCE DISPOSAL DUTY.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subchapter I of chapter 5 of  
4 title 37, United States Code, is amended by inserting after  
5 section 301e the following new section:

6 **“§ 301f. Incentive pay: explosive ordnance disposal**  
7 **duty.**

8 “(a) ELIGIBILITY.—(1) Subject to regulations pre-  
9 scribed by the Secretary of Defense, a regular member of  
10 a covered armed force is entitled to continuous monthly  
11 explosive ordnance disposal duty incentive pay in the  
12 amount specified in subsection (b)(1) if the member—

13 “(A) is entitled to basic pay;

14 “(B) holds (or is in training leading to) an ex-  
15 plosive ordnance disposal duty designator; and

16 “(C) is in and remains in explosive ordnance  
17 disposal duty on a career basis.

18 “(2) Subject to regulations prescribed by the Sec-  
19 retary of Defense, a member of a covered armed force who  
20 is entitled to basic pay but is not entitled to continuous  
21 monthly explosive ordnance disposal duty incentive pay  
22 under paragraph (1) is entitled to explosive ordnance dis-  
23 posal duty incentive pay in the amount prescribed pursu-  
24 ant to subsection (b)(2) for any period during which such  
25 member performs explosive ordnance disposal duty under  
26 orders.

1 “(b) RATES.—(1) Continuous monthly explosive ord-  
2 nance disposal duty incentive pay under subsection (a)(1)  
3 shall be in the following amounts:

| “Years of explosive ordnance disposal<br>duty (including training): | Monthly Rate |
|---|--------------|
| 2 or fewer  | \$125        |
| Over 2  | \$156        |
| Over 3  | \$188        |
| Over 4  | \$206        |
| Over 6  | \$650        |
| Over 8  | \$800        |
| Over 10   | \$1,000      |
| Over 17   | \$840        |
| Over 22   | \$585        |
| Over 24   | \$385        |
| Over 25   | \$250        |

4 “(2) Explosive ordnance disposal duty incentive pay  
5 under subsection (a)(2)—

6 “(A) shall be in amounts prescribed by the Sec-  
7 retary of Defense;

8 “(B) may not, for any month, exceed the max-  
9 imum amount specified in paragraph (1); and

10 “(C) may not be less per day than the amount  
11 under subsection (d).

12 “(c) COMPUTATION OF YEARS.—Years of explosive  
13 ordnance disposal duty by a member shall be computed  
14 beginning with the effective date of the initial order to  
15 such member to perform explosive ordnance disposal duty.

16 “(d) APPLICABILITY TO CERTAIN DUTY IN THE RE-  
17 SERVE COMPONENTS.—Under regulations prescribed by  
18 the Secretary of Defense and to the extent provided for

1 by appropriations, for each day that a member of the re-  
2 serve component of a covered armed force who is entitled  
3 to compensation under section 206 of this title performs,  
4 under orders, explosive ordnance disposal duty, such mem-  
5 ber is eligible for an increase in compensation equal to  
6 one-thirtieth of the continuous monthly incentive pay  
7 under subsection (b)(1) for a member of corresponding  
8 years of service entitled to basic pay.

9 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 “(1) The term ‘covered armed force’ means the  
11 Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Space  
12 Force.

13 “(2) The term ‘explosive ordnance disposal’ has  
14 the meaning given such term in section 2284 of title  
15 10.

16 “(3) The term ‘explosive ordnance disposal  
17 duty’ means duty performed by a member of a cov-  
18 ered armed force, under regulations prescribed by  
19 the Secretary of Defense, in explosive ordnance dis-  
20 posal.”.

21 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 301f of title 37,  
22 United States Code, added by this section, shall take effect  
23 on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enact-  
24 ment of this Act and apply to explosive ordnance disposal  
25 duty performed on or after such date.

1                   **Subtitle C—Allowances**

2   **SEC. 621 [log82463]. BASIC NEEDS ALLOWANCE: EXCLUSION**

3                   **OF BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING FROM**

4                   **THE CALCULATION OF GROSS HOUSEHOLD**

5                   **INCOME OF AN ELIGIBLE MEMBER OF THE**

6                   **ARMED FORCES.**

7       Section 402b(k)(1)(B) of title 37, United States

8   Code, is amended—

9               (1) by striking “in” and all that follows

10       through “portion of”; and

11              (2) by striking “that the Secretary concerned

12       elects to exclude” and inserting “paid to such mem-

13       ber”.



1 **SEC. 622 [log82627]. FAMILY SEPARATION ALLOWANCE: IN-**  
2 **CREASE.**

3 Section 427(a) of title 37, United States Code, is  
4 amended in paragraph (1), by striking “not less than  
5 \$250, and not more than \$400” and inserting “equal to  
6 \$400”.

1 **SEC. 623 [log82719]. REPORT REGARDING THE BASIC AL-**  
2 **LOWANCE FOR SUBSISTENCE AND MILITARY**  
3 **FOOD PROGRAMS.**

4 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than September  
5 30, 2026, and annually thereafter through 2030, the Sec-  
6 retary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of  
7 the military departments, shall submit to the Committees  
8 on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Represent-  
9 atives a report described in subsection (b).

10 (b) REPORT DESCRIBED.—A report described in this  
11 subsection shall explain how, during the fiscal year in  
12 which the Secretary submits such report—

13 (1) the Secretary of Defense allocated funds for  
14 the basic allowance for subsistence under section  
15 402 of title 37, United States Code, to pay for food  
16 programs;

17 (2) subsistence in-kind is budgeted to pay for  
18 food programs on military installations; and

19 (3) the Secretaries of the military departments  
20 used budget authorities to fund the fully burdened  
21 cost of feeding members—

22 (A) of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air  
23 Force, and Space Force; and

24 (B) who were assigned to essential station  
25 messing during such fiscal year.

1 **SEC. 624 [log82508]. BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING:**  
2 **STUDY TO EVALUATE ALTERNATIVE RATE**  
3 **CALCULATION.**

4 (a) **AUTHORITY.—**

5 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than September  
6 30, 2026, the Secretary of Defense shall seek to  
7 enter into an agreement with a covered entity to  
8 conduct a study in which the covered entity shall  
9 calculate, using industry-standard machine learning  
10 and an artificial intelligence algorithm, proposed  
11 monthly rates of BAH described in subsection (b)  
12 for MHAs selected under subsection (c).

13 (2) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—During such a  
14 study, the Secretary shall pay BAH in MHAs se-  
15 lected under subsection (c) at rates prescribed under  
16 section 403 of title 37, United States Code.

17 (b) **PROPOSED MONTHLY RATES.**—A proposed  
18 monthly rate of BAH described in this subsection—

19 (1) accurately reflects housing prices in the  
20 MHA subject to such rate; and

21 (2) is sufficient for military families who reside  
22 in such MHA to procure adequate and affordable  
23 housing.

24 (c) **MHAs.**—The Secretary shall select not fewer  
25 than 15 MHAs to participate in such a study. To select

1 an MHA, the Secretary shall consider factors including  
2 the following:

3 (1) Variety of geographic location.

4 (2) The ranks of members who reside in an  
5 MHA.

6 (3) Whether members who reside in an MHA  
7 have dependents.

8 (4) Economic factors including inflation, cost of  
9 living, and the cost of private mortgage insurance.

10 (d) TERMINATION.—A study under this section shall  
11 terminate on the day that is three years after the date  
12 on which the Secretary enters into an agreement with a  
13 covered entity.

14 (e) ANNUAL BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 180 days  
15 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and on an  
16 annual basis thereafter through the termination date  
17 under subsection (d), the Secretary shall provide to the  
18 Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the  
19 House of Representatives a briefing on the status of a  
20 study under this section.

21 (f) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date  
22 of the termination of such a study, the Secretary shall sub-  
23 mit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate  
24 and House of Representatives a report regarding such  
25 study. Such report shall include the following elements:

1           (1) An evaluation by the Secretary of the pro-  
2       posed monthly rates of BAH calculated by a covered  
3       entity pursuant to an agreement under subsection  
4       (a).

5           (2) Any recommendation of the Secretary re-  
6       garding legislation to improve the calculation of  
7       BAH process based on the study.

8       (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9           (1) The term “BAH” means the basic allow-  
10      ance for housing for members of the uniformed serv-  
11      ices under section 403 of title 37, United States  
12      Code.

13          (2) The term “covered entity” means a nation-  
14      ally recognized entity in the field of single-family  
15      housing that has data on local rental rates in real  
16      estate markets across the United States.

17          (3) The term “MHA” means military housing  
18      area.

1                                   **Subtitle D—Leave**  
2   **SEC. 631 [log82812]. CONVALESCENT LEAVE FOR CADETS**  
3                                   **AND MIDSHIPMEN.**

4       Section 702 of title 10, United States Code, is  
5 amended—

6               (1) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and  
7       (e) as subsections (d), (e), and (f), respectively;

8               (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-  
9       lowing new subsection:

10       “(c) CONVALESCENT LEAVE.—An academy cadet or  
11 midshipman diagnosed with a medical condition is allowed  
12 convalescent leave under section 701(m) of this title.”; and

13               (3) in subsection (d), as redesignated by para-  
14 graph (1) of this section, by striking “Sections 701”  
15 and inserting “Except as provided by subsection (c),  
16 sections 701”.

1     **Subtitle E—Family and Survivor**  
2                     **Benefits**

3     **SEC. 641 [Log 82623]. ANNUAL REVIEW OF FINANCIAL AS-**  
4                     **SISTANCE LIMITS FOR CHILD CARE AND**  
5                     **YOUTH PROGRAM SERVICES PROVIDERS.**

6         Section 1798 of title 10, United States Code, is  
7     amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
8     section:

9         “(d) ANNUAL REVIEW OF AMOUNT OF ASSIST-  
10     ANCE.—The Secretary shall annually review the amount  
11     of financial assistance provided under this section, includ-  
12     ing the maximum amount of financial assistance per  
13     month per child that the Secretary authorizes to be pro-  
14     vided to eligible providers under this section.”.

1 **SEC. 642 [log82811]. WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS FOR AIR**  
2 **TRANSPORTATION OF DECEASED MEMBERS**  
3 **OF THE ARMED FORCES WHEN NECESSARY**  
4 **TO MEET MISSION REQUIREMENTS.**

5 Section 562(c) of the John Warner National Defense  
6 Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–  
7 364; 10 U.S.C. 1482 note) is amended by adding at the  
8 end the following new paragraph:

9 “(4) WAIVER.—The Secretary concerned may  
10 waive the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (3) as  
11 the Secretary considers necessary to meet mission  
12 requirements during—

13 “(A) a time of war;

14 “(B) a national emergency requiring the  
15 use of significant personnel and aircraft;

16 “(C) a large-scale combat operation; or

17 “(D) a contingency operation.”.



## 1   **Subtitle F—Defense Resale Matters**

### 2   **SEC. 651 [log82465]. USE OF COMMISSARY STORES: CIVIL-** 3                   **IAN EMPLOYEES OF MILITARY SEALIFT COM-** 4                   **MAND.**

5       (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1066 of title 10, United  
6 States Code, is amended, in subsection (a)—

7           (1) by inserting “(1)” before “An individual”;  
8       and

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

11      “(2) A civil service mariner of the Military Sealift  
12 Command may be permitted to use commissary stores and  
13 MWR retail facilities on the same basis as members of  
14 the armed forces on active duty.”.

15      (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—  
16 Such section is further amended—

17           (1) in the section heading, by striking “**pro-**  
18      **tective services**” and inserting “**certain**”; and

19           (2) in the heading of subsection (a), by striking  
20      “PROTECTIVE SERVICES” and inserting “CERTAIN”.

**Subtitle G—Other Benefits,  
Reports, and Briefings**

**SEC. 661 [log82131]. EXPANSION OF PILOT PROGRAM TO IN-  
CREASE ACCESS TO FOOD ON MILITARY IN-  
STALLATIONS.**

Section 654 of the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118–159; 10 U.S.C. 1060a note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “Secretary of the Army” and inserting “Secretary of a military department”; and

(B) by striking “installations of the Army for members of the Army” and inserting “installations under the jurisdiction of the Secretary for members of the Armed Forces”;

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting “of the military department concerned” after “Secretary”; and

(3) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following new subsection (d):

“(d) REPORTING.—

“(1) PROGRESS REPORTS.—At the end of each calendar quarter until the pilot program terminates, the Secretary of a military department shall submit

1 to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate  
2 and House of Representatives a progress report re-  
3 garding implementation of the pilot program.

4 “(2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 90 days  
5 after the pilot program terminates, the Secretary of  
6 a military department shall submit to the Commit-  
7 tees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of  
8 Representatives a final report regarding the pilot  
9 program. Such report shall include the following ele-  
10 ments:

11 “(A) Lessons learned from the pilot pro-  
12 gram.

13 “(B) The recommendation of the Secretary  
14 whether to expand or make permanent the pilot  
15 program.

16 “(C) If the Secretary recommends expan-  
17 sion, the military installations covered by such  
18 recommended expansion.

19 “(D) Limitations to the operation or ex-  
20 pansion of the pilot program.

21 “(E) Any information the Secretary deter-  
22 mines appropriate.”.

1     **Subtitle A—TRICARE and Other**  
2                   **Health Benefits**

3     **SEC. 701.[Log 82603] DENTAL READINESS.**

4         Section 1076a of title 10, United States Code, is  
5     amended—

6             (1) in subsection (a)—

7                 (A) in paragraph (1)—

8                     (i) in the header, by striking “SE-  
9                     LECTED RESERVE AND”; and

10                    (ii) by striking “for members of the  
11                    Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve  
12                    and”;

13                 (B) in paragraph (2), in the header, by in-  
14                 serting “INDIVIDUAL READY” after “OTHER”;  
15                 and

16                 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
17                 paragraph:

18                     “(5) PLAN FOR SELECTED RESERVE.—A dental  
19                    benefits plan for members of the Selected Reserve of  
20                    the Ready Reserve.”;

21             (2) in subsection (d)—

22                 (A) by redesignating paragraph (3) as  
23                 paragraph (4); and

24                 (B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the  
25                 following new paragraph:

1           “(3) NO PREMIUM PLANS.—(A) The dental in-  
2           surance plan established under subsection (a)(5) is  
3           a no premium plan.

4           “(B) Members enrolled in a no premium plan  
5           may not be charged a premium for benefits provided  
6           under the plan.”;

7           (3) in subsection (e)(2)(A), by striking “a mem-  
8           ber of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve  
9           or”;

10          (4) by redesignating subsections (f) through (l)  
11          as subsections (g) through (m), respectively;

12          (5) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-  
13          lowing new subsection (f):

14          “(f) COPAYMENTS UNDER NO PREMIUM PLANS.—A  
15          member who receives dental care under a no premium plan  
16          referred to in subsection (d)(3) shall pay no charge for  
17          any care described in subsection (c).”; and

18          (6) in subsection (i), as redesignated by para-  
19          graph (4), by striking “subsection (k)(2)” and in-  
20          serting “subsection (l)(2)”.

1 **SEC. 702.[Log 82509] INCLUSION OF CERTAIN TESTS AS**  
2 **PART OF THE PERIODIC HEALTH ASSESS-**  
3 **MENT PROVIDED TO MEMBERS OF THE**  
4 **ARMED FORCES.**

5 Chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, is amend-  
6 ed by inserting after section 1074o the following new sec-  
7 tion:

8 **“§ 1074p. Periodic health assessments**

9 “Beginning in 2026, the Secretary of Defense shall  
10 ensure that periodic health assessments provided to a  
11 member of the armed forces include the following:

12 “(1) On an annual basis—

13 “(A) a sports physical;

14 “(B) an electrocardiogram; and

15 “(C) blood work that includes—

16 “(i) a comprehensive metabolic panel  
17 and complete blood count; and

18 “(ii) if necessary—

19 “(I) a thyroid stimulating hor-  
20 mone test; and

21 “(II) a brain natriuretic peptide  
22 test.

23 “(2) Any test or evaluation required by law  
24 with respect to such member, including an evalua-  
25 tion required by section 704 of the National Defense  
26 Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law

1       116–92; 10 U.S.C. 1074f note) and a test required  
2       by section 707 of such Act (10 U.S.C. 1074 note).  
3       “(3) Any other test or evaluation determined  
4       appropriate by the Secretary.”.

1 **SEC. 703.[Log 82368] PILOT PROGRAM ON ACCESS TO OB-**  
2 **STETRICAL AND GYNECOLOGICAL CARE**  
3 **UNDER TRICARE PRIME PROGRAM.**

4 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—Beginning not later than 180  
5 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
6 retary of Defense shall carry out a pilot program under  
7 which—

8 (1) the referral requirement in section  
9 1095f(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code, does not  
10 apply with respect to obstetrical and gynecological  
11 care for covered participants; and

12 (2) covered participants may elect to designate  
13 an obstetrical or gynecological care provider under  
14 the TRICARE program as an additional designated  
15 primary care manager under such section.

16 (b) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the  
17 pilot program for a period of five years.

18 (c) REPORT.—Not later than four years after the  
19 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall sub-  
20 mit to the congressional defense committees a report on  
21 the pilot program that includes the following:

22 (1) An assessment of any increases or decreases  
23 to TRICARE Prime enrollment during the period in  
24 which the Secretary carries out the pilot program.



1           (2) An assessment of any changes in the associ-  
2           ated costs of providing obstetrical and gynecological  
3           care under TRICARE Prime.

4           (3) Any other matters the Secretary determines  
5           appropriate.

6           (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7           (1) The term “congressional defense commit-  
8           tees” has the meaning given that term in section  
9           101(a)(16) of title 10, United States Code.

10          (2) The term “covered participant” means a fe-  
11          male member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine  
12          Corps, or Space Force or a female dependent of a  
13          member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine  
14          Corps, or Space Force, enrolled in TRICARE Prime  
15          who elects to participate in the pilot program.

16          (3) The terms “TRICARE Prime” and  
17          “TRICARE program” have the meaning given those  
18          terms in section 1072 of title 10, United States  
19          Code.

1 **SEC. 704.[Log 82700] PILOT PROGRAM TO TREAT PREG-**  
2 **NANCY AS A QUALIFYING EVENT FOR EN-**  
3 **ROLLMENT IN TRICARE SELECT.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
5 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
6 Defense shall commence a five-year pilot program under  
7 which—

8 (1) the Secretary shall treat pregnancy as a  
9 qualifying event under section 1099(b)(1)(B) of title  
10 10, United States Code, for enrollment in TRICARE  
11 Select by an eligible beneficiary; and

12 (2) a member of the Army, Navy, Marine  
13 Corps, Air Force, or Space Force on active duty  
14 may enroll in TRICARE Select under paragraph (1)  
15 for a period that ends not later than 180 days after  
16 the end of pregnancy.

17 (b) INITIAL BRIEFING.—Not later than one year  
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
19 shall provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the  
20 House of Representatives and the Senate a briefing on the  
21 status of the pilot program under subsection (a).

22 (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after  
23 the Secretary commences the pilot program under sub-  
24 section (a), and annually thereafter for the next four  
25 years, the Secretary shall provide to the Committees on  
26 Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the

1 Senate a report on the pilot program. Each such report  
2 shall include the number of covered enrollment changes,  
3 disaggregated by—

4 (1) month, beginning with January 2026; and

5 (2) whether the eligible beneficiary made such  
6 covered enrollment change—

7 (A) because the eligible beneficiary is a  
8 member of the covered Armed Forces on active  
9 duty who may enroll in TRICARE Select under  
10 the pilot program;

11 (B) because the eligible beneficiary is a  
12 member of the covered Armed Forces who sepa-  
13 rated from active duty;

14 (C) because the eligible beneficiary is a  
15 member of the covered Armed Forces who re-  
16 turned to active duty;

17 (D) because the eligible beneficiary is a de-  
18 pendent of a member of the covered Armed  
19 Forces who separated from active duty;

20 (E) because the eligible beneficiary is a de-  
21 pendent of a member of the covered Armed  
22 Forces who returned to active duty; or

23 (F) based on the treatment, under the  
24 pilot program, of pregnancy as a qualifying  
25 event for enrollment in TRICARE Select.

1 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 (1) The term “covered Armed Forces” means  
3 the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and  
4 Space Force.

5 (2) The term “covered enrollment change”  
6 means a change to a previous election by an eligible  
7 beneficiary under subsection (b)(1) of section 1099  
8 of title 10, United States Code, to enroll in a health  
9 care plan designated under subsection (c) of such  
10 section.

11 (3) The term “eligible beneficiary” means an  
12 individual—

13 (A) eligible to enroll in TRICARE Select  
14 under section 1075(b) of title 10, United States  
15 Code, by reason of being a member or former  
16 member of the covered Armed Forces, or a de-  
17 pendent of such a member or former member;  
18 or

19 (B) a member of the covered Armed  
20 Forces on active duty.

21 (4) The terms “TRICARE program” and  
22 “TRICARE Select” have the meanings given such  
23 terms in section 1072 of title 10, United States  
24 Code.

1                   **Subtitle B—Health Care**  
2                   **Administration**

3   **SEC. 711.[Log 82601] MILITARY-CIVILIAN MEDICAL SURGE**  
4                   **PROGRAM.**

5           (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 1096 of title 10,  
6 United States Code, is amended—

7               (1) in the section heading, by adding at the end  
8 the following: “**; medical surge program**”; and

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

11           “(e) MEDICAL SURGE PROGRAM.—(1) The Secretary  
12 shall carry out a program of record known as the Military-  
13 Civilian Medical Surge Program to—

14               “(A) support locations that the Secretary se-  
15 lects under paragraph (3); and

16               “(B) enhance the interoperability and medical  
17 surge capability and capacity of the National Dis-  
18 aster Medical System in response to a declaration or  
19 other action described in subparagraphs (A) through  
20 (E) of paragraph (4).

21           “(2)(A) The Secretary, acting through the National  
22 Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health at the  
23 Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (or  
24 such successor center), shall oversee the operation, staff-  
25 ing, and deployment of the Program.

1 “(B) In carrying out the Program, the Secretary  
2 shall maintain requirements for staffing, specialized train-  
3 ing, research, and education, regarding patient regulation,  
4 movement, definitive care, and other matters the Sec-  
5 retary determines critical to sustaining the health of mem-  
6 bers of the armed forces.

7 “(3)(A) In carrying out the Program, the Secretary  
8 shall establish partnerships at locations selected under  
9 subparagraph (B) with public, private, and nonprofit  
10 health care organizations, health care institutions, health  
11 care entities, academic medical centers of institutions of  
12 higher education, and hospitals that the Secretary deter-  
13 mines—

14 “(i) are critical in mobilizing a civilian medical  
15 response in support of a wartime contingency or  
16 other catastrophic event in the United States; and

17 “(ii) have demonstrated technical proficiency in  
18 critical national security domains, including high-  
19 consequence infectious disease and special pathogen  
20 preparedness, and matters relating to defense, con-  
21 tainment, management, care, and transportation.

22 “(B) The Secretary shall select not fewer than eight  
23 locations that are operationally relevant to the missions  
24 of the Department of Defense under the National Disaster  
25 Medical System and are aeromedical or other transport

1 hubs or logistics centers in the United States for partner-  
2 ships under subparagraph (A). The Secretary may select  
3 more than eight locations, including locations outside of  
4 the continental United States, if the Secretary determines  
5 such additional locations cover areas of strategic and oper-  
6 ational relevance to the Defense Department.

7 “(4) The Secretary shall ensure that the partnerships  
8 under paragraph (3)(A) allow for civilian medical per-  
9 sonnel to quickly and effectively mobilize direct support  
10 to military medical treatment facilities and provide sup-  
11 port to other requirements of the military health system  
12 pursuant to the following:

13 “(A) A declaration of a national emergency  
14 under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C.  
15 1621 et seq.).

16 “(B) A public health emergency declared under  
17 section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42  
18 U.S.C. 247d).

19 “(C) A declaration of war by Congress.

20 “(D) The President’s exercise of executive pow-  
21 ers under the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C.  
22 1541 et seq.).

23 “(E) Any other emergency or major disaster as  
24 declared by the President.

1       “(5)(A) The Secretary of Defense shall carry out the  
2 Program in collaboration with the Secretary of Veterans  
3 Affairs, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the  
4 Secretary of Transportation, and the Administrator of the  
5 Federal Emergency Management Agency.

6       “(B) Each official specified in subparagraph (A) shall  
7 prescribe regulations necessary to carry out the Program.

8       “(C) Not later than December 31, 2026, the officials  
9 specified in subparagraph (A) shall jointly issue an inter-  
10 agency operations plan for the Program.

11       “(D) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed  
12 to authorize the Secretary of Defense to control, direct,  
13 limit, or otherwise affect the authorities of the Secretary  
14 of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Health and Human  
15 Services, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Admin-  
16 istrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency  
17 with respect to medical preparedness and response, staff-  
18 ing levels, or resource allocation.

19       “(6) Beginning July 1, 2026, and annually there-  
20 after, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of  
21 Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Health and Human  
22 Services, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Admin-  
23 istrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency,  
24 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees  
25 a report on the status, readiness, and operational capabili-



1 ties of the Program. Each report shall include an assess-  
2 ment of personnel readiness, resource availability, inter-  
3 agency coordination efforts, and recommendations for con-  
4 tinued improvements to the Program.

5 “(7) In this subsection:

6 “(A) The term ‘appropriate congressional com-  
7 mittees’ means the following:

8 “(i) The Committee on Armed Services,  
9 the Committee on Transportation and Infra-  
10 structure, the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs,  
11 and the Committee on Energy and Commerce  
12 of the House of Representatives.

13 “(ii) The Committee on Armed Services,  
14 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
15 Transportation, the Committee on Veterans’ Af-  
16 fairs, the Committee on Homeland Security and  
17 Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on  
18 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the  
19 Senate.

20 “(B) The term ‘institution of higher education’  
21 means a four-year institution of higher education (as  
22 defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education  
23 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))).

24 “(C) The term ‘National Disaster Medical Sys-  
25 tem’ means the system established under section

1       2812 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
2       300hh–11).

3           “(D) The term ‘Program’ means the Military-  
4       Civilian Medical Surge Program established under  
5       paragraph (1).”.

6       (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the  
7       amounts authorized to be appropriated by [section 1405  
8       [log 82260]], as specified in the funding table in [section  
9       4501], there is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-  
10      retary of Defense \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2026 to  
11      carry out subsection (e) of section 1097 of title 10, United  
12      States Code, as added by subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 712.[Log 82504] REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAVEL EX-**  
2 **PENSES RELATING TO SPECIALTY CARE FOR**  
3 **CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES**  
4 **AND DEPENDENTS.**

5 Section 1074i of title 10, United States Code, is  
6 amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “In any case”  
8 and inserting “Except as provided by subsection (b),  
9 in any case”; and

10 (2) in subsection (b)—

11 (A) by striking the heading and inserting  
12 “SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS AND  
13 DEPENDENTS.—”;

14 (B) by striking “The Secretary of De-  
15 fense” and inserting “(1) The Secretary of De-  
16 fense”; and

17 (C) by inserting after paragraph (1), as  
18 designated by subparagraph (B) of this para-  
19 graph, the following new paragraph:

20 “(2) With respect to members of the armed forces  
21 on active duty and their dependents, the Secretary shall  
22 administer subsection (a) by substituting ‘50 miles’ for  
23 ‘100 miles’.”.

1 **SEC. 713.[Log 82748] MODIFICATION OF LIMITATION ON RE-**  
2 **DUCTION OF MILITARY MEDICAL MANNING**  
3 **END STRENGTH.**

4 Section 741 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense  
5 Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–  
6 263; 136 Stat. 2395; 10 U.S.C. 129c note) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “five-year pe-  
8 riod” both places it appears and inserting “10-year  
9 period”; and

10 (2) in subsection (c)—

11 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “Not  
12 later than two years after the date of the enact-  
13 ment of this Act,” and inserting “During each  
14 of 2024 and 2029,”; and

15 (B) in paragraphs (3) and (4), by striking  
16 “three years after the date of the enactment of  
17 this Act,” both places it appears and inserting  
18 “December 31, 2030,”.

1 **SEC. 714.[Log 82522] PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF**  
2 **FUNDS FOR PAINFUL RESEARCH ON DOMES-**  
3 **TIC CATS AND DOGS.**

4 (a) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided by subsection  
5 (b) or (c), none of the funds authorized to be appropriated  
6 by this Act or otherwise made available for the Depart-  
7 ment of Defense may be obligated or expended to conduct  
8 or fund, in whole or in part, painful research on a domes-  
9 tic cat (*Felis catus*) or a domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*).

10 (b) EXCEPTION.—The prohibition in subsection (a)  
11 shall not apply with respect to any physical exam, training  
12 program, or study relating to service animals or military  
13 animals.

14 (c) WAIVER.—The Secretary of Defense may waive  
15 the prohibition in subsection (a) on a case-by-case basis  
16 if the Secretary—

17 (1) determines that the waiver is in the national  
18 security interests of the United States; and

19 (2) not later than 30 days after the date on  
20 which the Secretary makes the waiver, submits to  
21 the congressional defense committees a detailed jus-  
22 tification for the waiver, including—

23 (A) an identification of the element of the  
24 Department of Defense that is obligating or ex-  
25 pending funds covered by the waiver;

1 (B) an identification of the amount of such  
2 funds;

3 (C) an identification of the intended pur-  
4 pose of such funds;

5 (D) an identification of the recipient or  
6 prospective recipient of such funds (including  
7 any nongovernmental recipient, as applicable);

8 (E) an explanation for how the waiver is in  
9 the national security interests of the United  
10 States; and

11 (F) any other information the Secretary  
12 determines appropriate.

13 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 (1) The term “military animal” has the mean-  
15 ing given the term in section 2583(i)(1) of title 10,  
16 United States Code.

17 (2) The term “painful research” includes any  
18 research, biomedical training, experimentation, or bi-  
19 ological testing, classified in pain category D or E  
20 by the Department of Agriculture.

21 (3) The term “service animal” has the meaning  
22 given the term in section 37.3 of title 49, Code of  
23 Federal Regulations, or such successor regulation.

1 **SEC. 715.[Log 82380] PILOT PROGRAM TO TEST STAND-**  
2 **ALONE TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE EFFI-**  
3 **CIENCIES IN SUPPLY-CHAIN MANAGEMENT,**  
4 **MEDICAL READINESS, AND MEDICAL PROC-**  
5 **ESSES.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after  
7 the date of the enactment of the Act, the Secretary of De-  
8 fense, acting through the Director of the Defense Health  
9 Agency, shall carry out a pilot program to test and evalu-  
10 ate existing standalone technologies to assess whether  
11 such technologies accomplish the following:

12 (1) Improving efficiencies in medical supply-  
13 chain management and in military medical readi-  
14 ness.

15 (2) Streamlining medical processes.

16 (3) Improving recordation accuracy.

17 (4) Reducing rates of needlestick injury.

18 (5) Enhancing retention rates of military health  
19 care providers.

20 (b) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the  
21 pilot program for a five-year period.

1       **Subtitle C—Studies, Briefings,**  
2       **Reports, and Other Matters**

3       **SEC. 721.[Log 82460] STRATEGY FOR TREATING TRAUMATIC**  
4                   **BRAIN INJURIES THROUGH DIGITAL HEALTH**  
5                   **TECHNOLOGIES.**

6       Section 735 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense  
7       Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–  
8       263; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) is amended—

9               (1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as  
10              subsections (f) and (g), respectively; and

11             (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-  
12              lowing new subsection:

13             “(e) DIGITAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES.—

14               “(1) WORKING GROUP.—As part of the Initia-  
15              tive, the Secretary shall establish a working group to  
16              develop a strategy for treating traumatic brain inju-  
17              ries through digital health technologies.

18               “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The working group shall  
19              be composed of members of the Armed Forces, civil-  
20              ian employees of the Department of Defense, and in-  
21              dividuals not employed by the Federal Government,  
22              who have expertise in traumatic brain injury clinical  
23              care, biomedical informatics, engineering, or imple-  
24              mentation science.



1           “(3) ELEMENTS.—The strategy developed  
2       under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

3           “(A) Identification of capability gaps in  
4       the treatment of traumatic brain injuries that  
5       could be addressed through artificial intel-  
6       ligence and digital health technologies.

7           “(B) An analysis of existing research, de-  
8       velopment, and acquisition efforts leveraging ar-  
9       tificial intelligence-based capabilities and digital  
10      health technologies, including any applicable  
11      commercial off-the-shelf solutions being used by  
12      the Secretary to support the treatment of trau-  
13      matic brain injuries.

14          “(C) Recommendations with respect to ad-  
15      vances required to—

16           “(i) address gaps identified under  
17          subparagraph (A); and

18           “(ii) significantly improve the treat-  
19          ment of traumatic brain injuries using ar-  
20          tificial intelligence and digital health tech-  
21          nologies.

22          “(D) A recommended investment plan to  
23          advance technology and knowledge readiness  
24          levels to field digital health technologies to treat  
25          traumatic brain injuries.

1           “(4) BRIEFING.—Not later than one year after  
2           the date of the enactment of the National Defense  
3           Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, the Sec-  
4           retary shall provide to the Committees on Armed  
5           Services of the House of Representatives and the  
6           Senate a briefing on the strategy developed under  
7           paragraph (1).”.

1   **SEC. 722.[Log 82374] REPORT ON TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJU-**  
2                   **RIES AMONG CERTAIN PILOTS SERVING ON**  
3                   **ACTIVE DUTY.**

4       (a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
5 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense  
6 shall submit to the congressional defense committees a re-  
7 port that contains a study determining whether, and to  
8 what extent, members of the Armed Forces serving on ac-  
9 tive duty as pilots suffer from traumatic brain injury re-  
10 sulting from the cumulative effects of high-speed maneu-  
11 vers, catapult launches, and other repetitive actions poten-  
12 tially harmful to brain health as a result of such service.

13       (b) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The report under sub-  
14 section (a) shall include the following:

15           (1) The results of the study under subsection  
16       (a).

17           (2) A summary of existing policies and proce-  
18 dures of the Department of Defense, as of the date  
19 of the report, for identifying, documenting, and  
20 treating mild, moderate, and severe traumatic brain  
21 injury among pilots.

22           (3) A strategy to better identify, document, and  
23 treat mild, moderate, and severe traumatic brain in-  
24 jury among pilots.

25           (4) Recommendations of the Secretary with re-  
26 spect to potential regulatory and legislative actions

1       to address challenges in identifying, documenting,  
2       and treating mild, moderate, and severe traumatic  
3       brain injury among pilots.

1 **SEC. 723.[Log 82618] STUDY ON EFFECTS OF SERVICE IN**  
2 **THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES TO**  
3 **HEALTH OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED**  
4 **FORCES.**

5 (a) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
6 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense  
7 shall conduct a five-year longitudinal study on the evalua-  
8 tion and treatment of traumatic brain injuries and other  
9 injuries to provide analyses, findings, and recommenda-  
10 tions with respect to extending the health span of mem-  
11 bers of special operations forces.

12 (b) ELEMENTS.—The study under subsection (a)  
13 shall include the following:

14 (1) An evaluation of various exposure factors,  
15 including environmental, injury, and disease, to iden-  
16 tify and quantify the relationship of such exposure  
17 to long-term health.

18 (2) An identification of sensitive and rapid bio-  
19 markers related to injury and outcomes at the acute,  
20 subacute, and chronic level that translate to prac-  
21 tical injury mitigation.

22 (3) The characterizing and analysis of the fac-  
23 tors associated with mitigating initial injury, enhanc-  
24 ing force resilience, and optimizing long-term out-  
25 comes.

1           (4) An identification of the critical pre-service  
2           and post-service related issues that affect long-term  
3           health span.

4           (5) An identification of the factors associated  
5           with early aging at the patient facing and cellular  
6           level to identify targets for potential therapeutics  
7           and interventions.

8           (6) Any other elements as determined appro-  
9           priate by the Secretary.

10          (c) PROGRESS REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days  
11 after the date on which the Secretary commences the  
12 study under subsection (a), and annually thereafter during  
13 the duration of the study, the Secretary shall submit to  
14 the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Rep-  
15 resentatives and the Senate a progress report of activities  
16 conducted under the study during the period covered by  
17 the report.

18          (d) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after  
19 the date on which the Secretary completes the study under  
20 subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Commit-  
21 tees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives  
22 and the Senate a report containing the findings of the  
23 study and recommendations based on the study, including  
24 information regarding—

1           (1) identification of health trajectories associ-  
2       ated with a career serving as a member of the spe-  
3       cial operations forces;

4           (2) modifiable and nonmodifiable factors, in-  
5       cluding biomarkers, disease processes, and social de-  
6       terminants of health, associated with life-span tra-  
7       jectories and an increase in force readiness;

8           (3) any recommendations to alter health trajec-  
9       tories and improve force resilience and long-term  
10      health span in active and retired members of the  
11      special operations forces; and

12          (4) processes to integrate factors that affect the  
13      health of an individual before serving in the special  
14      operations forces, including with respect to the expo-  
15      sure history and health trajectory of the individual,  
16      into simple scores that can be use to improve the  
17      care of active and retired members of the special op-  
18      erations forces.

19      (e) SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES DEFINED.—In  
20      this section, the term “special operations forces” means  
21      the forces described in section 167(j) of title 10, United  
22      States Code.

1           **Subtitle D—Miscellaneous**  
2           **Authorities and Limitations**

3   **SEC. 1031 [Log 82871]. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO**  
4                   **PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN SUPPORT OF DE-**  
5                   **PARTMENT OF DEFENSE ACCOUNTING FOR**  
6                   **MISSING UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PER-**  
7                   **SONNEL.**

8       Section 408 of title 10, United States Code, is  
9   amended—

- 10           (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “and procure  
11       goods and services from” after “assistance to”; and  
12           (2) in subsection (d)(1), by striking  
13       “\$5,000,000” and inserting “\$15,000,000”.



1 **SEC. 1101. [LOG 82388] LIVING QUARTER ALLOWANCE FOR**  
2 **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CIVILIAN EM-**  
3 **PLOYEES WITH PERMANENT DUTY STATION**  
4 **IN GUAM.**

5 Section 1102 of the National Defense Authorization  
6 Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31) is amend-  
7 ed—

8 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**DE-**  
9 **PARTMENT OF THE NAVY CIVILIAN EMPLOY-**  
10 **EES ASSIGNED TO PERMANENT DUTY IN GUAM**  
11 **FOR PERFORMING WORK, OR SUPPORTING**  
12 **WORK BEING PERFORMED, ABOARD OR DOCK-**  
13 **SIDE, OF U.S. NAVAL VESSELS**” and inserting  
14 “**CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT**  
15 **OF DEFENSE STATIONED IN GUAM**”;

16 (2) in subsection (a), by striking “Secretary of  
17 the Navy” and inserting “Secretary of Defense”;  
18 and

19 (3) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the  
20 following:

21 “(b) COVERED EMPLOYEE DEFINED.—In this sec-  
22 tion, the term ‘covered employee’ means any civilian em-  
23 ployee of the Department of Defense whose permanent  
24 duty station is located in Guam.”.

1 **SEC. 1102. [LOG 82389] APPOINTMENT OF RETIRED MEM-**  
2 **BERS OF THE ARMED FORCES TO COMPETI-**  
3 **TIVE SERVICE AND EXCEPTED SERVICE POSI-**  
4 **TIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3326 of title 5, United  
6 States Code, is amended—

7 (1) in the section heading, by inserting “**cer-**  
8 **tain**” before “**positions**”; and

9 (2) in subsection (b)—

10 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
11 by striking “the civil service” and inserting  
12 “the competitive service or the excepted serv-  
13 ice”; and

14 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “for the  
15 purpose” and all that follows through “Manage-  
16 ment”.

17 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
18 at the beginning of subchapter I of chapter 33 of such  
19 title is amended in the item relating to section 3326 by  
20 inserting “certain” before “positions”.

1   **SEC. 1103. [LOG 82696] PAY FOR CREWS OF VESSELS.**

2       Section 5348 of title 5, United States Code, is  
3 amended—

4           (1) in subsection (a), by adding before the pe-  
5 riod at the end the following: “, not to exceed the  
6 rate of pay for the Vice President under section 104  
7 of title 3”; and

8           (2) by adding at the end the following:

9       “(c) The limitation on pay under section 5307 shall  
10 not apply to an employee whose pay is fixed under sub-  
11 section (a).”.

1 **SEC. 1105. [LOG 82746] ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF AUTHOR-**  
2 **ITY TO WAIVE ANNUAL LIMITATION ON PRE-**  
3 **MIUM PAY AND AGGREGATE LIMITATION ON**  
4 **PAY FOR FEDERAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES**  
5 **WORKING OVERSEAS.**

6 Subsection (a) of section 1101 of the Duncan Hunter  
7 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009  
8 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4615), as most recently  
9 amended by section 1104 of the Servicemember Quality  
10 of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization  
11 Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118–159; 138 Stat.  
12 2087), is further amended by striking “through 2025”  
13 and inserting “through 2026”.

1 **SEC. 1106. [LOG 82747]ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF TEM-**  
2 **PORARY AUTHORITY TO GRANT ALLOW-**  
3 **ANCES, BENEFITS, AND GRATUITIES TO CI-**  
4 **VILIAN PERSONNEL ON OFFICIAL DUTY IN A**  
5 **COMBAT ZONE.**

6 Paragraph (2) of section 1603(a) of the Emergency  
7 Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global  
8 War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (Public  
9 Law 109–234; 120 Stat. 443), as added by section 1102  
10 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization  
11 Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat.  
12 4616) and as most recently amended by section 1105 of  
13 the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and Na-  
14 tional Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025  
15 (Public Law 118–159; 138 Stat. 2088), is further amend-  
16 ed by striking “2026” and inserting “2027”.

1                   **Subtitle C—Other Matters**

2   **SEC. 1421 [Log 82794]. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES FOR**  
3                   **FUNDING AND MANAGEMENT OF JOINT DE-**  
4                   **PARTMENT OF DEFENSE-DEPARTMENT OF**  
5                   **VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITY DEM-**  
6                   **ONSTRATION FUND FOR CAPTAIN JAMES A.**  
7                   **LOVELL HEALTH CARE CENTER, ILLINOIS.**

8           (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1704(e) of the National  
9   Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public  
10   Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2573), as most recently amended  
11   by section 1421(a) of the National Defense Authorization  
12   Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118–159; 138 Stat.  
13   2129), is amended by striking “September 30, 2026” and  
14   inserting “September 30, 2027”.

15          (b) AUTHORITY FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—Of the  
16   funds authorized to be appropriated for section 1405 and  
17   available for the Defense Health Program for operation  
18   and maintenance, \$162,500,000 may be transferred by the  
19   Secretary of Defense to the Joint Department of Defense–  
20   Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Dem-  
21   onstrations Fund established by subsection (a)(1) of sec-  
22   tion 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for  
23   Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2571).  
24   For purposes of subsection (a)(2) of such section 1704,  
25   any funds so transferred shall be treated as amounts au-

1 thorized and appropriated specifically for the purpose of  
2 such a transfer.

3 (c) USE OF TRANSFERRED FUNDS.—For the pur-  
4 poses of subsection (b) of such section 1704, facility oper-  
5 ations for which funds transferred under subsection (a)  
6 may be used are operations of the Captain James A.  
7 Lovell Federal Health Care Center, consisting of the  
8 North Chicago Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the Navy  
9 Ambulatory Care Center, and supporting facilities des-  
10 ignated as a combined Federal medical facility under an  
11 operational agreement covered by section 706 of the Dun-  
12 can Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal  
13 Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500).

1 **SEC. 1423 [Log 82140]. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-**  
2 **TIONS FOR ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT**  
3 **HOME.**

4       There is hereby authorized to be appropriated for fis-  
5 cal year 2026 from the Armed Forces Retirement Home  
6 Trust Fund the sum of \$77,000,000 for the operation of  
7 the Armed Forces Retirement Home.



1       **Subtitle E—Reports and Other**  
2                               **Matters**

3   **SEC. 1541. [Log 82795] OCCUPATIONAL RESILIENCY OF THE**  
4                               **CYBER MISSION FORCE.**

5       (a) REQUIREMENT.—Beginning not later than one  
6   year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under  
7   Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness and the  
8   Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, in coordination  
9   with the Principal Cyber Advisors of the military depart-  
10   ments and the Commander of the United States Cyber  
11   Command, shall jointly carry out an initiative to under-  
12   stand and address occupational resiliency challenges at the  
13   duty locations of the Cyber Mission Force by ensuring  
14   that—

15               (1) behavioral health professionals are assigned  
16       to the operating locations of United States Cyber  
17       Command and the Cyber Mission Force; and

18               (2) each such professional holds the security  
19       clearance necessary to provide treatment to the  
20       members of the Armed Forces assigned at such duty  
21       locations.

22       (b) QUARTERLY BRIEFINGS.—On a quarterly basis  
23   during the one-year period beginning on the date on which  
24   the initiative under subsection (a) commences, the Under  
25   Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness and the

1 Assistant Secretary of Defense for Cyber Policy shall  
2 jointly provide to the Committees on Armed Services of  
3 the Senate and the House of Representatives a briefing  
4 on the following:

5 (1) The status of carrying out such initiative.

6 (2) Validation of the security clearances held by  
7 behavioral health professionals assigned under such  
8 subsection.

9 (3) An analysis of clinical acuity being treated  
10 by such professionals.

11 (4) Identified challenges to carrying out such  
12 initiative.

13 (5) Efforts to improve the awareness by mem-  
14 bers of the Armed Forces assigned to the Cyber Mis-  
15 sion Force with respect to the availability of appro-  
16 priately cleared behavioral health professionals who  
17 can treat such members.

18 (6) Any other information the Under Secretary  
19 or the Assistant Secretary determines appropriate.

20 (c) OCCUPATIONAL RESILIENCY CHALLENGES DE-  
21 FINED.—In this section, the term “occupational resiliency  
22 challenges” means behavioral health challenges relating to  
23 an occupation and work-related stress.

1 **SEC. 1702\_\_ [log82386]. COPYRIGHT TO A LITERARY WORK**  
2 **PRODUCED BY A CIVILIAN FACULTY MEMBER**  
3 **OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY**  
4 **OF HEALTH SCIENCES IN THE COURSE OF**  
5 **SUCH EMPLOYMENT: FREE USE BY THE FED-**  
6 **ERAL GOVERNMENT.**

7 (a) USE BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.—Section 105  
8 of title 17, United States Code, is amended, in subsection  
9 (d)(2)—

10 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (L) through  
11 (N) as subparagraphs (M) through (O), respectively;

12 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (K) the fol-  
13 lowing new subparagraph (L):

14 “(L) Uniformed Services University of the  
15 Health Sciences.”.

16 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section is  
17 further amended, in subsection (c)—

18 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “subpara-  
19 graphs (A) through (K) of subsection (d)(2) and  
20 subparagraph (L)” and inserting “subparagraphs  
21 (A) through (L) of subsection (d)(2) and subpara-  
22 graph (M)”;

23 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “subsection  
24 (d)(2)(L)” and inserting “subsection (d)(2)(M)”;

1           (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “subsection  
2           (d)(2)(M)” and inserting “subsection (d)(2)(N”;  
3           and  
4           (4) in paragraph (4), by striking “subsection  
5           (d)(2)(N)” and inserting “subsection (d)(2)(O”.

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## **DIVISION A—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATIONS**

### **TITLE V—MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY**

## ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

### Accountability and Welfare of Service Members and Department of Defense Civilians

The committee remains concerned that on January 21, 2020, Private Caleb Smither passed away as the result of an injury suffered in the line of duty while serving as a Paratrooper in 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Private Smither was found dead in his barracks room after several days of receiving no medical attention or unit supervision. The committee acknowledges that the Department of Army has issued guidance reiterating existing policies and is expected to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services regarding leadership's responsibility to monitor the health and welfare of service members later this year.

However, the committee recognizes that similar incidents to the death of Private Caleb Smithers could occur in other military service in the absence of clear and enforceable standards. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Navy and the Secretary of Air Force to each provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 31, 2026, on the following:

(1) the current policies and procedures in each military department that outline leadership's responsibility to monitor the health and welfare of service members in their command, particularly following injury or significant medical events;

(2) the implementation of the afore-mentioned policies;

(3) any lessons learned from the Army; and

(4) methods in place to ensure that the appropriate medical protocols are followed.

### Continuous Development for the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System

The committee recognizes the critical role the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) plays for servicemembers and personnel staff in the Department of Defense. This database has aided the Department with military benefits' eligibility tracking, benefits management, identity management, and data repository services.

The committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 3, 2026, that includes the following:

(1) the Department's plan to ensure all Department of Defense personnel are able check the status of DEERS and determine if the system is offline; and if the system is offline, an estimate for when the system will be back in operation should be posted alongside the status;

(2) a record of DEERS outages, scheduled and unscheduled, in the last 2 fiscal years and the reasons for such outages;

(3) a plan to mitigate outages and shift outages to non-duty days;

(4) a record of all processes that require in-person visits to personnel offices for updates to the system;

(5) an assessment other systems with connections to DEERS and what improvements may be needed to decrease the need for in-person visits;

(6) a plan to implement said updates for databases and systems with existing connections to DEERS; and

(7) an assessment of external databases and other systems, with the intent to identify new computer-to-computer integrations for DEERS that can streamline updates that currently require in-person visits.

### Engagement with Local Host Communities in Okinawa, Japan

The committee remains concerned by sexual assault cases involving U.S. military servicemembers stationed in Okinawa, Japan, and reports that the Okinawa Prefectural Government and the local community were not promptly informed. The committee encourages the Department of Defense to provide regular communication and engagement with local host communities on Okinawa.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services not later than February 1, 2026, on measures taken to build and maintain trust and good relations with local host communities in Japan, including:

(1) the authorities governing communications between the U.S. Armed Forces and prefectural governments of Japan regarding criminal allegations involving U.S. servicemembers;

(2) the current processes for communicating information between the U.S. Armed Forces and prefectural governments of Japan regarding criminal allegations involving U.S. servicemembers;

(3) any updates or changes that have been made to the current communication processes between the U.S. military and the prefectural governments of Japan in light of recent high-profile allegations of sexual assault involving U.S. servicemembers;

(4) an assessment of whether the communication process should be modified; and

(5) detailed information regarding United States Forces Japan's participation in the forum established in July 2024 with Okinawa's prefectural government, including meetings held, participants, and any recommendations made.

### Flight 293

The committee notes the tragic loss of Northwest Orient Airlines Flight 293, a military charter flight that crashed into the Gulf of Alaska on June 3, 1963, killing all 101 individuals on board. The committee is aware of reports regarding a lack of parity between how non-combat military plane crashes, such as Northwest Orient Airlines Flight 293, and combat military plane crashes are documented.



Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to submit a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services, not later than March 1, 2026, on the feasibility and advisability of establishing a publicly accessible database documenting all non-combat military plane crashes, to include names, ranks, and service details of individuals who perished in such crashes.

### Food Program Leadership

The committee remains concerned about the adequacy, availability, and quality of food options available to servicemembers at military installations, including on-base dining facilities. Additionally, the committee recognizes the responsibility for military food programs is fragmented and it is spread across multiple offices and commands. We believe this negatively impacts the management and oversight of these programs. As a result, the committee is interested in establishing a single point of contact for the entirety of military food programs to improve quality, access and oversight.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretaries of the military departments to submit a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 31, 2026, on the feasibility of designating a single individual within each service to oversee logistics, budget, and personnel policies related to food programs. This report shall include the resources required to establish such a position and a proposed action plan for implementation.

### Immersive Learning Program of Record

The committee notes the Air Force's leadership in embracing Extended Reality (XR) capabilities to provide immersive learning tools across the training enterprise. Cloud-based, portable immersive training mitigates physical training equipment shortages and reduces travel costs associated with physical classroom training.

The committee believes consideration should be given to establishing an official immersive learning program of record to formalize, fund, and support deployment of extended reality (XR) capabilities.

The committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing, not later than March 31, 2026, to the House Committee on Armed Services to present the steps that have been taken to establish a program of record for an immersive learning capabilities platform. The briefing shall, at a minimum, include:

(1) the specific steps taken to establish an immersive learning platform of record;

(2) an assessment of critical enabling capabilities and their alignment with program requirements to including a cloud-based, cybersecure (ATO) deployment environment, a Digital Asset Repository (DAR) capability to manage multi-vendor digital training assets, delivery of immersive training lessons on a spectrum of

hardware devices (mobile, tablet, laptop, standalone and tethered headsets), a self-authoring tools to enable Air Force personnel to develop and maintain immersive training lessons without external vendor assistance, integration into the Air Force learning ecosystem to support competency assessment and tracking across an Airman's career, and articulation of the specific steps taken to foster a level playing field, prevent vendor lock and ensure equal access to government owned digital assets and equipment to increase competition, improve quality and reduce costs;

(3) estimated funding requirements over the fiscal year 2027 five-year Program Objective Memorandum to support the program of record; and

(4) near-term Air Force acquisition milestones and other planned activities in support of establishing an immersive learning program of record.

### Provision of Information on Federal Service Opportunities Briefing

The committee remains committed to promoting national service in all its forms, including through efforts pursuant to section 536 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118-159) to provide public service opportunities to those deemed ineligible for service in the military. The committee commends the Department of Defense for its initial implementation efforts to expose young Americans to a variety of public service pathways. The committee is interested in how the Department intends to expand upon these early efforts. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2026, on its efforts to implement section 536 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118-159). The briefing shall include:

(1) detailed information about existing efforts to provide national service information to individuals deemed ineligible for military service;

(2) the number of individuals deemed ineligible for military service who have received information from the Department regarding federal or other public service opportunities; and

(3) a description of the national service information provided to individuals ineligible for military service.

### Return on Investment for Servicemember Specialty Training

The committee is aware of concerns that highly specialized military personnel are leaving the service due to various factors, including inadequate promotion opportunities. To better understand whether such retention concerns are valid, the committee directs the Secretaries of the military departments to each provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2026, on promotion opportunities for enlisted military occupational specialties (MOS) within the following communities: air traffic controllers, engineers, intelligence analysts, cyber, linguistics, and public affairs. The briefings shall include the following for the last three promotion cycles:

- (1) whether individuals can directly enlist into each specified MOS or if entry is limited to individuals who are currently serving;
- (2) whether, and the extent to which, members of these MOSs are eligible for bonuses;
- (3) whether promotion to certain paygrades in these communities requires a change in MOS;
- (4) for each specified MOS, the total number of individuals eligible for promotion to E-6 through E-9, and the number of individuals selected, broken down by paygrade;
- (5) for each specified MOS, the average time in grade and time in service before promotion to E-6 through E-9, broken down by paygrade;
- (6) the overall selection rate, average time in grade, and time in service for all E-6 through E-9 promotions, broken down by each paygrade;
- (7) an analysis of any challenges to advancement for each specified MOS, to include how they compete within and outside their MOS for promotion and leadership opportunities; and
- (8) any other information the Secretaries of the military departments deem relevant to career progression for each specified MOS.

#### Service Academies: Alumni Associations

The committee understands the importance of the affiliation of alumni associations and their related foundations with the military service academies. The committee also notes that these organizations are independent not-for-profits and designated non-federal entities that are not part of the Department of Defense or any of its components. The committee also notes that the alumni associations are not chartered to provide any oversight or advice on academy matters such as cadet morale, discipline, curriculum, instruction or academic methods, as this role is reserved for the statutorily established Boards of Visitors. The committee is concerned about the role of the alumni associations and the advisory responsibilities they may currently be exercising. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretaries of the military departments to each submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 31, 2026, that addresses the following elements:

- (1) the frequency of engagements between the alumni association and the academy superintendents;
- (2) the topics covered in those engagements;
- (3) a detailed list of recommendations made and accepted by the superintendent; and
- (4) the amount of alumni funds provided to support the academies and cadets or midshipman and the use of those funds.

#### Sexual Assault Training in the Delayed Entry Program

The committee remains committed to ensuring oversight of sexual assault prevention and response training implementation, including for individuals enlisted through a Delayed Entry Program (DEP). Therefore, the committee directs the Secretaries of the military departments to each provide separate reports to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services not later than February 1, 2026, on initial Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) training provided to members of the DEP pursuant to section 535 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91; 10 USC 1561 note), including:

- (1) how members of the DEP receive initial entry SAPR training and from whom;
- (2) the manner in which initial entry SAPR training completion is documented and tracked for members of the DEP; and
- (3) how each service monitors compliance with the requirement that such training be completed within 14 days after initial entrance on Active Duty or into a duty status with a Reserve Component.

## TITLE VI—COMPENSATION AND OTHER PERSONNEL BENEFITS

### ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

#### Encouraging Navy Veterans to Join the Dredging Industry

The committee acknowledges the immense value maritime infrastructure and the development of this critical workforce has on the sustainment of navigable waterways in support of both military readiness and economic prosperity. The committee is eager to evaluate the possibility of growing a critical industry while simultaneously employing a highly trained and highly skilled demographic: Navy personnel who are leaving military service. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Navy to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services by April 1, 2026, on the following:

- (1) an analysis of the skills and experience of Navy personnel, particularly those with backgrounds in engineering, navigation, heavy equipment operation, and maintenance, that are directly transferable to the dredging industry;
- (2) a plan for developing and implementing targeted outreach and recruitment strategies to connect Navy personnel leaving the military with employment opportunities in the dredging industry;
- (3) an evaluation of the feasibility of establishing a credentialing or certification program to allow the skills Navy personnel obtained during service to be viewed in a comparable light as credentialing in the public industry; and
- (4) a description of any existing or planned coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other relevant agencies to facilitate the transition of Navy personnel into the dredging workforce.

## Pilot Program on Child Care Worker Compensation

The committee understands that quality, affordable child care for military families is essential to military readiness, and remains concerned that the military's efforts to provide adequate child care are being eroded by the inability to attract and retain staff, particularly due to child care worker compensation. While the Department of Defense is currently working to modernize its child care worker compensation model pursuant to section 583 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118-159), the committee notes that the new compensation model has yet to be implemented.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2026, on the feasibility and advisability of establishing a pilot program to increase salaries for child care employees at military child development centers. The report shall include:

- (1) the potential installations where such a pilot could occur;
- (2) the cost to the Department of increasing child care worker compensation; and
- (3) any impacts such a pilot program would have on implementation of the modernized child care compensation model.

## TITLE VII—HEALTH CARE PROVISIONS

### ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

#### Access to Maternal Health Care

The committee recognizes the importance of providing high-quality maternal health care for servicemembers and their dependents. Access to comprehensive maternal health is essential to ensure the well-being of servicemembers and their families as well as maintain overall force readiness.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services, not later than March 1, 2026, on the current status of maternal health care available to servicemembers and their dependents. This briefing should include:

- (1) an analysis of the availability and adequacy of maternal health care services for covered beneficiaries under TRICARE over the last two years;
- (2) any challenges beneficiaries face in accessing maternal health care;
- (3) a description of policies and procedures in place to ensure continuity of care for maternal health, including pre- and post-natal during a permanent change of station; and
- (4) any other issues the Secretary deems appropriate on this subject.

#### Combat Casualty Care in Arctic and Other Extreme Cold Weather Environments

While the committee commends the Department of Defense for initiating strategies to address Arctic operational capabilities, a corresponding comprehensive Defense Health Plan for support of operations in the Arctic environment does not exist. The committee believes new requirements are needed to effectively address the Arctic impact on combat casualty care. It also believes the challenging Arctic environment presents novel threats to operational medical sustainability also necessitating research into unique aspects of medical equipment and how to deliver life-saving pre-hospital interventions to stabilize and treat battlefield casualties. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than July 1, 2026, on a strategy and the medical research and development requirements to deliver pre-hospital, life-saving interventions in Arctic environments that includes, at a minimum:

- (1) initial capabilities documents identifying gaps and requirements to support pre-hospital, life-saving interventions during Arctic operations;
- (2) identification of and recommendations to amend clinical practice guidelines to treat combat casualties in extreme cold weather environments;
- (3) a recommended investment plan to address clinical and medical research and development capability gaps identified in initial capabilities documents;
- (4) feasibility of engaging with academic medical centers and institutions to support partnerships for research and development to address the pre-hospital needs of servicemembers following injury in extreme cold weather environments; and
- (5) any additional information the Secretary deems appropriate.

#### Department of Defense Global Health Engagement Activities

The committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 31, 2026, on the Department of Defense's Global Health Engagement activities and their impact on the following:

- (1) force health protection with a focus on global bio-surveillance, medical research and development, and preventive medicine;
- (2) building partner capacity and interoperability with allied partners;
- (3) humanitarian assistance and disaster relief;
- (4) the biological threat reduction program with a focus on eradicating dangerous pathogens;
- (5) the Department of Defense's role in the Global Health Security Agenda, including combatting emerging infectious diseases and antibiotic-resistance bacterial; and
- (6) any additional information the Secretary deems necessary.

#### Depleting Testosterone Levels Among Army Special Forces

The committee is interested in the impacts of low testosterone on servicemembers and last year required a report from the Department of Defense in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118-159) on medical interventions available in the military health system for the treatment of low testosterone. This year, the committee is interested in a more specific report related on the prevalence of low testosterone among the Army's Special Operators. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than April 1, 2026, on the results of the assessment including:

- (1) whether Army Special Forces at entry to the Qualification Course have higher levels of testosterone than the average civilian male for that age group;
- (2) the effects of Special Forces training, deployments, and general work on levels of testosterone;
- (3) whether the Army's testosterone assessments conducted for Special Forces factor a potential increase in testosterone levels accrued during a servicemember's time in the military, to consider the total percentage of testosterone lost;
- (4) the quality of testing for decreased testosterone levels, and whether testing should be conducted at later times of the day to retrieve more accurate testosterone levels;
- (5) treatment options provided prevent and treat decreasing testosterone levels among Army Special Forces;
- (6) any impacts, if any, of decreased testosterone levels on readiness;
- (7) any impacts, if any, of decreased testosterone levels on individual personnel's long-term health; and
- (8) any other element the Secretary determines useful.

#### Enterprise-wide Revenue Cycle Management Program for the Defense Health Agency

The committee is concerned that the Defense Health Agency (DHA) has annual uncollected financial claims from third-party collections estimated at \$500.0 million, plus an additional \$250.0 million in denied claims, caused by an inadequate revenue cycle management system (RCM) with dysfunctional IT support, and uncoordinated administrative processes, that result in an inability to produce financial results critically needed by the DHA.

The committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 31, 2026, detailing the plans to improve the lagging claims management process. The briefing shall include the following:

- (1) the plans for MHS GENESIS RCM solution;
- (2) the plans to improve coding of the clinical record;
- (3) the plans for an enterprise-wide RCM solution to support the DHA Military Treatment Facilities;

(4) the plans to reduce the number of denied claims;  
(5) the plans to improve the collections for denied claims; and  
(6) the feasibility of a management plan that creates a single accountable office for RCM in the DHA enterprise.

#### Human Performance Optimization through Digital Lifestyle and Performance Medicine Solutions

The committee urges the Department of Defense to prioritize the integration of evidence-based, digital health solutions to address foundational health behaviors affecting readiness and retention. The committee believes digital performance health technologies may enhance individual health behaviors, reduce preventable medical costs, and improve force-wide readiness and resilience.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services no later than March 31, 2026, on the following:

(1) the feasibility of implementing a standardized, digital health solution to enhance Warfighter performance across all branches of service;

(2) the extent to which the Department is integrating performance-based health strategies, including nutrition education, sleep optimization, and stress management, into operational readiness initiatives;

(3) how the Department is leveraging wearable technology and digital health platforms to enhance data-driven decision-making for commander oversight of Warfighter well-being; and

(4) how the Department will address data gathered by these devices, privacy issues, and any other challenges identified as part of using wearable technology in an operational environment.

#### Military Treatment Facility Trauma Centers

The committee is concerned with the status of trauma capable military medical centers and military hospitals, and progress towards these facilities becoming verified trauma centers. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 31, 2026, that shall include:

(1) the number of Military Treatment Facilities that have been verified by the American College of Surgeons as Trauma Centers;

(2) the Military Treatment Facilities that have met the "Trauma Capable" criteria established in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328, section 703);

(3) the number of Military Treatment Facilities equipped with Level Three Trauma care capabilities;

(4) current status of efforts to obtain verification for appropriate Military Treatment Facilities as Trauma Centers; and



(5) the feasibility of recognizing Military Treatment Facilities Outside of the Continental United States Trauma Centers.

### Nonaddictive Opioid Alternatives

The committee remains concerned about the continued use of opioids by Active Duty and retired servicemembers for the treatment of pain. The committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 31, 2026, on steps the Department will take to ensure that nonaddictive alternatives to opioids are on the TRICARE Uniform Formulary. The report shall include a timeline detailing when these medications will be available to TRICARE beneficiaries once they have received FDA approval.

### Operational Medicine Care Delivery Platforms

The committee recognizes the importance of fielding the Department of Defense's modernized electronic medical record solution to enable comprehensive health services to deployed forces across the range of military operations. The committee notes that the military departments and the Defense Health Agency (DHA) have pursued various approaches to operational medicine delivery platforms to satisfy individual Service, as well as joint mission requirements. The committee is interested in learning whether there are available technologies and approaches that are not being developed and/or evaluated thoroughly by the DHA and other military departments. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than June 1, 2026, assessing the military departments and the DHA's electronic medical record modernization efforts. The report shall include:

- (1) a summary of the technical milestones and achievements of the electronic medical record modernization programs to date;
- (2) a detailed assessment of the timeline associated with fielding the platforms;
- (3) an analysis of platforms and solutions that are currently available that might address those requirements, to include commercial off-the-shelf technologies; and
- (4) an assessment of funding required to fully mature the modernized electronic medical record and transition to a fielded capability.

### Specialty Circuit Rider Assessment

The committee notes that servicemembers and families stationed at installations designated as "Remote and Isolated" by the Department of Defense face many challenges, particularly when accessing health care. Due to a shortage of health care specialists in many rural areas, individuals have to travel to metropolitan areas for specialty care, often facing logistical challenges and, in some

cases, being forced to take additional leave. The committee recognizes the importance of access to health care so servicemembers and their families can focus on accomplishing their mission. The committee also recognizes the value of the Military Health System's Specialist Circuit Rider program, which bridge health care gaps in remote military communities in the United States and overseas. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committees on Armed Services not later than March 31, 2026. The report shall include the following information on the Specialist Circuit Rider program:

(1) which military installations in the continental United States have benefitted from the program, what specialties have been made available, and since when;

(2) the estimated number of servicemembers and dependents who have benefitted from this program in installations in the continental United States;

(3) which military bases in the outside the continental United States have benefitted from the program, what specialties have been made available, and since when;

(4) the estimated number of servicemembers and dependents who have benefitted from this program in installations outside of the continental United States;

(5) what practices by the Department have been successful in administering the program;

(6) has the Department considered extending telehealth as an option to expand access to specialists;

(7) has the Department considered establishing private-sector partnerships to improve this program;

(8) has the Department measured impacts on access to readiness as a result of this program;

(9) has the Department measured time and costs saved to beneficiaries as a result of this program; and

(10) any additional information the Secretary deems appropriate.