

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H. R. 2835, With an
Amendment**

**(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a
new text)**

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2835

To actively recruit members of the Armed Forces who are separating from
military service to serve as Customs and Border Protection officers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 18, 2015

Ms. MCSALLY (for herself, Ms. TITUS, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. ZINKE, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. DONOVAN, and Mr. KNIGHT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To actively recruit members of the Armed Forces who are separating from military service to serve as Customs and Border Protection officers.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Border Jobs for Vet-
3 erans Act of 2015”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Customs and Border Protection officers at
7 United States ports of entry carry out critical law
8 enforcement duties associated with screening foreign
9 visitors, returning United States citizens, and im-
10 ported cargo entering the United States.

11 (2) It is in the national interest for United
12 States ports of entry to be adequately staffed with
13 Customs and Border Protection officers in a timely
14 fashion, including meeting the congressionally fund-
15 ed staffing target of 23,775 officers for fiscal year
16 2015.

17 (3) An estimated 250,000 to 300,000 members
18 of the Armed Forces separate from military service
19 every year.

20 (4) Recruiting efforts and expedited hiring pro-
21 cedures must be enhanced to ensure that individuals
22 separating from military service are aware of, and
23 partake in, opportunities to fill vacant Customs and
24 Border Protection officer positions.

1 **SEC. 3. EXPEDITED HIRING OF APPROPRIATE SEPARATING**
2 **SERVICE MEMBERS.**

3 The Secretary of Homeland Security shall consider
4 the expedited hiring of qualified candidates who have the
5 ability to perform the essential functions of the position
6 of a Customs and Border Protection officer and who are
7 eligible for a veterans recruitment appointment authorized
8 under section 4214 of title 38, United States Code.

9 **SEC. 4. ENHANCEMENTS TO EXISTING PROGRAMS TO RE-**
10 **CRUIT SERVICE MEMBERS SEPARATING**
11 **FROM MILITARY SERVICE FOR CUSTOMS AND**
12 **BORDER PROTECTION OFFICER VACANCIES.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Secu-
14 rity, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, and
15 acting through existing programs, authorities, and agree-
16 ments, where applicable, shall enhance the efforts of the
17 Department of Homeland Security to recruit members of
18 the Armed Forces who are separating from military serv-
19 ice to serve as Customs and Border Protection officers.

20 (b) ELEMENTS.—The enhanced recruiting efforts
21 under subsection (a) shall—

22 (1) include Customs and Border Protection offi-
23 cer opportunities in relevant job assistance efforts
24 under the Transition Assistance Program;

25 (2) place U.S. Customs and Border Protection
26 officials or other relevant Department of Homeland

1 Security officials at recruiting events and jobs fairs
2 involving members of the Armed Forces who are
3 separating from military service;

4 (3) provide opportunities for local U.S. Customs
5 and Border Protection field offices to partner with
6 military bases in the region;

7 (4) include outreach efforts to educate members
8 of the Armed Forces with Military Occupational
9 Specialty Codes and Officer Branches, Air Force
10 Specialty Codes, Naval Enlisted Classifications and
11 Officer Designators, and Coast Guard competencies
12 that are transferable to the requirements, qualifica-
13 tions, and duties assigned to Customs and Border
14 Protection officers of available hiring opportunities
15 to become Customs and Border Protection officers;

16 (5) identify shared activities and opportunities
17 for reciprocity related to steps in hiring Customs
18 and Border Protection officers with the goal of mini-
19 mizing the time required to hire qualified applicants;

20 (6) ensure the streamlined interagency transfer
21 of relevant background investigations and security
22 clearances; and

23 (7) include such other elements as may be nec-
24 essary to ensure that members of the Armed Forces
25 who are separating from military service are aware

1 of opportunities to fill vacant Customs and Border
2 Protection officer positions.

3 **SEC. 5. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, and by December 31
6 of each of the next three years thereafter, the Secretary
7 of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary
8 of Defense, shall submit a report to the Committee on
9 Homeland Security and the Committee on Armed Services
10 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
11 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the
12 Committee on Armed Services of the Senate that includes
13 a description and assessment of the efforts of the Depart-
14 ment of Homeland Security to hire members of the Armed
15 Forces who are separating from military service as Cus-
16 toms and Border Protection officers under section 4.

17 (b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection
18 (a) shall include—

19 (1) a detailed description of the efforts to im-
20 plement section 4, including—

21 (A) elements of the enhanced recruiting ef-
22 forts and the goals associated with such ele-
23 ments; and

24 (B) a description of how the elements and
25 goals referred to in subparagraph (A) will assist

1 in meeting statutorily mandated staffing levels
2 and agency hiring benchmarks;

3 (2) a detailed description of the efforts that
4 have been undertaken under section 4;

5 (3) the estimated number of separating service
6 members made aware of Customs and Border Pro-
7 tection officer vacancies;

8 (4) the number of Customs and Border Protec-
9 tion officer vacancies filled with separating service
10 members; and

11 (5) the number of Customs and Border Protec-
12 tion officer vacancies filled with separating service
13 members under Veterans Recruitment Appointment
14 authorized under section 4214 of title 38, United
15 States Code.

16 **SEC. 6. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.**

17 Nothing in this Act may be construed—

18 (1) as superseding, altering, or amending exist-
19 ing Federal veterans' hiring preferences or Federal
20 hiring authorities; or

21 (2) to authorize the appropriation of additional
22 amounts to carry out this Act.