Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 5938, With an Amendment

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

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5938

To amend the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a vacancy and recruitment database to facilitate the recruitment of certain members of the Armed Forces to satisfy the occupational needs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to establish and implement a training and certification program for intermediate care technicians in that Department, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 23, 2018

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a vacancy and recruitment database to facilitate the recruitment of certain members of the Armed Forces to satisfy the occupational needs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to establish and implement a training and certification program for intermediate care technicians in that Department, and for other purposes.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Serving Vet-
erans Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. RECRUITMENT DATABASE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 208 of the VA Choice
and Quality Employment Act (Public Law 115–46; 38
U.S.C. 701 note) is amended as follows:

(1) In subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter proceeding paragraph
(1), by striking “a single database” and insert-
ing “and maintain a single searchable database
(to be known as the ‘Departments of Defense
and Veterans Affairs Recruitment Database’);”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “; and”
and inserting a semicolon;

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-
period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(D) by adding after paragraph (2) the fol-
lowing new paragraph:

“(3) with respect to each vacant position under
paragraphs (1) and (2)—

“(A) the military occupational specialty or
skill that corresponds to the position, as deter-
mined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense; and

“(B) each qualified member of the Armed Forces who may be recruited to fill the position before such qualified member of the Armed Forces has been discharged and released from active duty.”.

(2) By redesignating subsections (b), (c), and (d) as subsections (f), (g), and (h), respectively.

(3) By inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsections:

“(b) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—Subject to subsection (c), the database established under subsection (a) shall include, with respect to each qualified member of the Armed Forces, the following information:

“(1) The name and contact information of the qualified member of the Armed Forces.

“(2) The date on which the qualified member of the Armed Forces is expected to be discharged and released from active duty.

“(3) Each military occupational specialty currently or previously assigned to the qualified member of the Armed Forces.

“(c) AVAILABILITY.—Information in the database shall be available to offices, officials, and employees of the
Department of Veterans Affairs to the extent the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines appropriate.

“(d) EXPEDITED HIRING PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall hire qualified members of the Armed Forces who apply for vacant positions listed in the database established under subsection (a) without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code.

“(e) RELOCATION BONUS.—The Secretary may authorize a relocation bonus, in an amount determined appropriate by the Secretary and subject to the same limitations as in the case of the authority provided under section 5753 of title 5, to any qualified member of the Armed Forces who has accepted a position listed in the database established under subsection (a).”.

(4) In subsection (g)(1), as redesignated in paragraph (2), by striking “subsection (b)” and inserting “subsection (g)”.

(5) In subsection (h), as redesignated in paragraph (2), by striking “of this Act” and inserting “of the Veterans Serving Veterans Act of 2018, and annually thereafter”.

(6) By adding after subsection (h), as redesignated in paragraph (2), the following new subsection:
“(i) QUALIFIED MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘qualified member of the Armed Forces’ means a member of the Armed Forces—

“(1) described in section 1142(a) of title 10;

“(2) who elects to be listed in the database established under subsection (a); and

“(3) who has been determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, to have a military occupational speciality that corresponds to a vacant position described in subsection (a).”.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a plan to implement, including a timeline, section 208 of the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act (Public Law 115-46; 38 U.S.C. 701 note), as amended by this section.

SEC. 3. INTERMEDIATE CARE TECHNICIAN TRAINING PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall implement a program to train and certify cov-
erred veterans to work as intermediate care technicians in
the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) LOCATIONS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
establish centers at medical facilities of the Depart-
ment selected by the Secretary for the purposes of
carrying out the program under subsection (a).

(2) SELECTION OF MEDICAL FACILITIES.—In
selecting a medical facility of the Department under
this subsection to serve as a center, the Secretary
shall consider—

(A) the experience and success of the facil-
ity in training intermediate care technicians;

and

(B) the availability of resources of the fa-
cility to train intermediate care technicians.

(c) COVERED VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section,
the term “covered veteran” means a veteran whom the
Secretary determines served as a basic health care techni-
cian while serving in the Armed Forces.

SEC. 4. NO AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appro-
priated to carry out section 208 of the VA Choice and
Quality Employment Act (Public Law 115–46; 38 U.S.C.
701 note), as amended by section 2 of this Act, or to carry
out section 3 of this Act. Such sections shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated for such purpose.

SEC. 5. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the requirements of this Act and the amendments made by this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated.