

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6176

To require the Secretary of Energy to develop a solar workforce training course for certain members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 2020

Mr. O'HALLERAN (for himself, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, and Mr. WALTZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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 require the Secretary of Energy to develop a solar workforce training course for certain members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Solar Vocational Edu-
5 cation and Training for our Servicemembers Act” or the
6 “Solar VETS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SOLAR WORKFORCE TRAINING COURSE FOR MEM-**
2 **BERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

3 (a) TRAINING COURSE.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in collabora-
5 tion with the Secretary of Defense, shall develop a
6 training course for careers in solar-related occupa-
7 tions to be—

8 (A) made available—

9 (i) at military installations; and

10 (ii) to eligible members of the Armed
11 Forces; and

12 (B) administered by institutions of higher
13 education pursuant to an agreement with the
14 Secretary.

15 (2) COURSE COMPONENTS.—The training
16 course shall include—

17 (A) hands-on, in-person instruction with
18 respect to solar-related occupations;

19 (B) assistance with resume preparation;

20 (C) assistance with job interview prepara-
21 tion; and

22 (D) an examination that results in the re-
23 ceipt of an entry-level certification in solar in-
24 stallation (such as a certification from the
25 North American Board of Certified Energy
26 Practitioners).

1 (3) FEES OR CHARGES PROHIBITED; REIM-
2 BURSEMENT FOR EXAMINATION COSTS.—

3 (A) FEES OR CHARGES.—No fee or charge
4 may be assessed to an eligible member of the
5 Armed Forces in connection with the participa-
6 tion of the member in the training course.

7 (B) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Secretary
8 shall reimburse an eligible member of the
9 Armed Forces for the costs of an examination
10 described in paragraph (2)(D) incurred by the
11 member.

12 (b) SELECTION OF PARTICIPATING MILITARY IN-
13 STALLATIONS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in collabora-
15 tion with the Secretary of Defense, shall select mili-
16 tary installations at which the training course will be
17 offered to eligible members of the Armed Forces.

18 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In selecting a military
19 installation, the Secretary shall consider—

20 (A) the average number of eligible mem-
21 bers of the Armed Forces stationed at the mili-
22 tary installation;

23 (B) the solar market in the local commu-
24 nity near the military installation, including the

1 number of relevant employers and job opportu-
2 nities; and

3 (C) the capability of institutions of higher
4 education located near the military installation
5 to administer the training course.

6 (c) AGREEMENT WITH INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
7 EDUCATION.—For each military installation at which the
8 training course is to be offered, the Secretary shall enter
9 into an agreement with an institution of higher education
10 located near the military installation under which the in-
11 stitution shall administer the training course.

12 (d) OUTREACH.—The Secretary, in collaboration
13 with the Secretary of Defense, shall ensure that—

14 (1) commanders at military installations are
15 aware of the availability of the training course; and

16 (2) installation transition offices inform eligible
17 members of the Armed Forces about the training
18 course.

19 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following defi-
20 nitions apply:

21 (1) ELIGIBLE MEMBER OF THE ARMED
22 FORCES.—The term “eligible member of the Armed
23 Forces” means a member of the Armed Forces
24 that—

1 (A) has completed at least 180 days on ac-
2 tive duty in the Armed Forces; and

3 (B) is expected to be discharged or re-
4 leased from active duty in the Armed Forces
5 within 180 days of the date of commencement
6 of participation in the training course.

7 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
8 term “institution of higher education” has the
9 meaning given that term in section 101 of the High-
10 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

11 (3) MILITARY INSTALLATION.—The term “mili-
12 tary installation” means a military installation that
13 is located within any of the several States, the Dis-
14 trict of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto
15 Rico, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands of the
16 United States, the Commonwealth of the Northern
17 Mariana Islands, or Guam.

18 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
19 the Secretary of Energy.

20 (5) TRAINING COURSE.—The term “training
21 course” means the training course developed under
22 subsection (a).

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