

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2341

To amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the authority for members of the Armed Forces to obtain professional credentials.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 15, 2014

Mr. KAINE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the authority for members of the Armed Forces to obtain professional credentials.

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. ENHANCEMENT OF AUTHORITY FOR MEMBERS**
4 **OF THE ARMED FORCES TO OBTAIN PROFES-**
5 **SIONAL CREDENTIALS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of subsection (a)
7 of section 2015 of title 10, United States Code, is amend-
8 ed by striking “professional accreditation” and all that fol-
9 lows through “certification” and inserting “State-imposed

1 licenses, Federal occupational licenses, and professional
2 certification”.

3 (b) LIMITATIONS.—Subsection (b) of such section is
4 amended—

5 (1) by inserting “(1)” before “The authority”;
6 and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following new
8 paragraphs:

9 “(2) The authority under subsection (a) may not be
10 used to pay the expenses of a member to obtain profes-
11 sional credentials unless such credentials are recognized
12 and approved by the armed force concerned as necessary
13 to meet—

14 “(A) readiness requirements or professional oc-
15 cupational development goals of such armed force; or

16 “(B) the self-development requirements of the
17 member.

18 “(3) Except as provided in paragraph (4), the author-
19 ity under subsection (a) may not be used to pay the ex-
20 penses of obtaining professional credentials unless—

21 “(A) such credentials are accredited under
22 International Organization for Standardization/
23 International Commission (ISO/IEC) Standard
24 17024–2012, entitled ‘General Requirements for
25 Bodies Operating Certification of Persons’; and

1 “(B) the entity accrediting such credentials pro-
2 vides documentary evidence to the Secretary of De-
3 fense that it complies International Organization for
4 Standardization/International Commission Standard
5 17011, entitled ‘Conformity assessment—General re-
6 quirements for accreditation bodies accrediting con-
7 formity assessment bodies’.

8 “(4) During the three-year period beginning on the
9 date of the authorization of the Credentialing agency by
10 the Department of Defense, the authority under sub-
11 section (a) may be used to pay the expenses of obtaining
12 professional credentials from an entity not complying with
13 the Standards referred to in paragraph (3) if the entity
14 certifies in writing to the Secretary of Defense that the
15 entity agrees to seek to obtain certification of compliance
16 with the Standards before the end of such period.”.

17 (c) FUNDS AVAILABLE.—Such section is further
18 amended—

19 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “may pay” in
20 the matter preceding paragraph (1) and inserting
21 “may, using funds described in subsection (c), pay”;
22 and

23 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
24 section:

1 “(c) FUNDS AVAILABLE.—Payments may be made
2 under the authority under subsection (a) by the Secretary
3 making such payments from amounts available to such
4 Secretary for tuition assistance for members under the ju-
5 risdiction of such Secretary.”.

6 (d) COVERED EXPENSES.—Such section is further
7 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
8 section:

9 “(d) EXPENSES DEFINED.—In this section, the term
10 ‘expenses’ means expenses for classroom instruction,
11 hands-on training (and associated materials), manuals,
12 study guides and materials, text books, processing fees,
13 and test fees and related fees.”.

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