

**H.R. 8800—NATIONAL DEFENSE  
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY  
PERSONNEL**

SUMMARY OF BILL LANGUAGE.....	1
BILL LANGUAGE.....	24
DIRECTIVE REPORT LANGUAGE .....	242

# **SUMMARY OF BILL LANGUAGE**

# Table Of Contents

## **DIVISION A—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATIONS**

### **TITLE IV—MILITARY PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATIONS**

#### **LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS**

##### **SUBTITLE A—ACTIVE FORCES**

Sec. 401—End Strengths for Active Forces

##### **SUBTITLE B—RESERVE FORCES**

Sec. 411—End Strengths for Selected Reserve

Sec. 412—End Strengths for Reserves on Active Duty in Support of the Reserves

Sec. 413—End Strengths for Military Technicians (Dual Status)

Sec. 414—Maximum Number of Reserve Personnel Authorized to be on Active Duty for Operational Support

Sec. 415—Authorized Strengths: Senior Enlisted Members on Active Duty or on Full-Time National Guard Duty for Administration of the Marine Corps Reserve

### **TITLE V—MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY**

#### **LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS**

##### **SUBTITLE A—OFFICER POLICY**

Sec. 501—Flexibility in Requirements of Selection Boards: Composition; Convening

Sec. 502—Grade of Chief of Veterinary Corps of the Army

Sec. 503—Inclusion of Judge Advocates In Global Force Management Processes

##### **SUBTITLE B—RESERVE COMPONENT MANAGEMENT**

Sec. 511—Grades of Certain Chiefs of Reserve Components

##### **SUBTITLE C—GENERAL SERVICE AUTHORITIES AND MILITARY RECORDS**

Sec. 521—Prohibition On Use of Prediction Markets By Personnel of the Department of Defense

Sec. 522—Pilot Program on Modernization of Drug Testing Using Voice-Based Risk Assessment

Sec. 523—Soldier Digital Lifecycle Modernization Initiative

##### **SUBTITLE D—MEMBER TRAINING**

Sec. 531—Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program for Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps

Sec. 532—Elimination of Cap on the Number of Cadets Or Midshipmen Who May Receive Alternative Service Obligations to Become Professional Athletes

Sec. 533—Elimination of the Right of Cadets to Automatic Reexamination

Sec. 534—Congressional Communications Officials of the Service Academies

Sec. 535—Revision to Decision Timeframe for Expedited Transfers at the Military Service Academies

Sec. 536—Establishment of the Military Service Academy Panel On Athletics

SUBTITLE E—MEMBER EDUCATION

Sec. 541—Defense Information School: Authority to Grant Associate's Degree in Communications

Sec. 542—Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship and Financial Assistance Program: Eligible Institutions; Continuity of Payments

SUBTITLE F—MILITARY JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGAL MATTERS

Sec. 551—Clarification of Qualifications for Judge Advocates

Sec. 552—Authority of Special Trial Counsel to Enter into Pretrial Agreements with Respect to Certain Offenses

Sec. 553—Clarifying Amendment to Completion of Appellate Review Under Article 57 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice

Sec. 554—Review of Courts-Martial Records

Sec. 555—Clarification of Court of Criminal Appeals Review of Sentencing

Sec. 556—Expansion of Victim Access to Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces

Sec. 557—Modifications to Offense of Wrongful Broadcast or Distribution of Intimate Visual Images Under the Uniform Code of Military Justice

Sec. 558—Policies Regarding the Reporting of Missing Members of the Armed Forces

Sec. 559—Pilot Program On Use of Advanced Monitoring and Rehabilitative Technologies in Army Correctional Facilities

SUBTITLE G—CAREER TRANSITION

Sec. 561—Designation of Senior Official for Military-to-Civilian Transition

Sec. 562—Authorization of Pilot Program to Help Members Separating from Certain Armed Forces Obtain Employment as Teachers

SUBTITLE H—FAMILY PROGRAMS, CHILD CARE, AND DEPENDENT EDUCATION

Sec. 571—Extension of Non-Medical Counseling Services Program for Military Families

Sec. 572—Pilot Program to Provide Financial Assistance to Members of the Armed Forces for In-Home Child Care: Inclusion of Au Pairs

Sec. 573—Certain Assistance to Local Educational Agencies that Benefit Dependents of Military and Civilian Personnel

Sec. 574—Authority for Pilot Program for Certain Military Spouses to Become Special Education Teachers in DoDEA Schools

Sec. 575—Pilot Program for Push-Text Notifications to Members and Dependents

SUBTITLE I—DECORATIONS AND AWARDS, REPORTS, AND OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 581—Gold Star Survivor: Definition Prescribed by Secretary of Defense

Sec. 582—Technical Correction to Authorization to Award the Distinguished-Service Cross to Isaac "Ike" Camacho

Sec. 583—Authorization for Posthumous Award of Medal of Honor to Rafael Peralta for Acts of Valor

Sec. 584—Authorization for Award of the Distinguished-Service Cross for James O. Ratliff for Acts of Valor during the Vietnam War

Sec. 585—Authorization to Award the Distinguished-Service Cross to Joseph P. Lynch for Acts of Valor as a Member of the Army During the Vietnam War  
Sec. 586—Sense of Congress Regarding Award of Medal of Honor to Thomas J. Grasso for Acts of Valor During Operation Freedom's Sentinel

## **TITLE VI—COMPENSATION AND OTHER PERSONNEL BENEFITS**

### **LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS**

#### **SUBTITLE A—BONUS AND INCENTIVE PAYS**

Sec. 601—One-Year Extension of Certain Expiring Bonus and Special Pay Authorities  
Sec. 602—Authorizing Board Certification Incentive Pay for Medical Officers with Doctoral Degrees  
Sec. 603—Expansions of Authorities to Contract with Members of the Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps

#### **SUBTITLE B—ALLOWANCES**

Sec. 611—Basic Needs Allowance: Exclusion of Basic Allowance for Housing from the Calculation of Gross Household Income of an Eligible Member of the Armed Forces  
Sec. 612—Payment of Costs to Ship Breast Milk of a Member Performing Certain Duty

#### **SUBTITLE C—DEFENSE RESALE MATTERS**

Sec. 621—Single-Use Shopping Bags in Commissary Stores

#### **SUBTITLE E—OTHER BENEFITS, REPORTS, AND BRIEFINGS**

Sec. 631—Provision of Information Regarding Food Access and Child Care for Members Receiving Order for a Change of Permanent Station

## **TITLE VII—HEALTH CARE PROVISIONS**

### **LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS**

#### **SUBTITLE A—TRICARE AND OTHER HEALTH BENEFITS**

Sec. 701—Dental Readiness for Certain Members of Selected Reserve  
Sec. 702—Expanded Access to Dental Care for Certain Dependents  
Sec. 703—Limitation on Ability of Secretary of Defense to Modify Scope of Medical Services  
Sec. 704—Prohibition on and Reversal of Actions to Modify Scope of Medical Services Provided at Certain Medical Treatment Facilities

#### **SUBTITLE B—HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION**

Sec. 711—Improvements to Defense Health Agency  
Sec. 712—Improvements to Administration of Military Medical Treatment Facilities  
Sec. 713—Designation of Defense Health Agency as Combat Support Agency  
Sec. 715—Availability of Combat and Operational Medicine Program Account and other funds for certain medical countermeasures  
Sec. 716—Inclusion of Defense Health Agency in Reporting Requirements Relating to Unfunded Priorities

Sec. 717—Clarification of Consistent Evaluations of Medical Malpractice Claims

Sec. 718—Modification to Qualification Waiver Authority for Applicants for Nursing or Practical Nurse Positions in the Department Of Defense

Sec. 719—Notification to TRICARE Beneficiaries of Coverage Transition Requirements

Sec. 720—Aerial Transport and Department-Wide Capability for High-Consequence Infectious Diseases

Sec. 721—Pilot Program on Filling Primary Care Management Positions at Remote Military Medical Treatment Facilities

Sec. 722—Plans on Military Health System

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

Sec. 731—Quarterly Briefing on Military Treatment Facilities

Sec. 733—Modifications to Evaluation and Report on TRICARE Program Effectiveness

Sec. 734—Extension of Extramedical Maternal Health Providers Demonstration Project

Sec. 735—Pilot Program to Treat Pregnancy as a Qualifying Event for Enrollment in Tricare Select

Sec. 736—Access to Automated External Defibrillators During Military Physical Training

Sec. 737—Pilot Program on Remote Blood Pressure Monitoring for Certain Pregnant and Postpartum TRICARE Beneficiaries

Sec. 738—Pilot Program on Secure, Mobile Personal Health Record for Members of the Armed Forces

Sec. 739—Pilot Program to Provide for the Use of Blue-Light Dissipating Displays to Certain Individuals

Sec. 740—Working Group on Digital Strategy for Traumatic Brain Injuries

Sec. 741—Study on Long-Term Effects of Military Flight Operations on Brain Health and Mental Health

Sec. 742—Study on Feasibility of Establishing Military Treatment Facility at Homestead Air Reserve Base

Sec. 743—Study on Feasibility of Establishing Digital System Relating to Access to Care at Military Medical Treatment Facilities

Sec. 744—Review by Inspector General of the Department of Defense on Efforts to Prevent Suicide

Sec. 745—Requirements Relating to Wellness Checks for Health and Welfare of Certain Members of the Armed Forces

Sec. 746—Reports on Department of Defense Comprehensive Autism Care Demonstration Program

Sec. 747—Transition of Medics to Civilian Workforce

### TITLE X—GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

##### SUBTITLE D—MISCELLANEOUS AUTHORITIES AND LIMITATIONS

Sec. 1041—Inclusion of National Guard Relief Foundation as a Military Welfare Society for Certain Purposes

## **TITLE XI—CIVILIAN PERSONNEL MATTERS**

### **LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS**

Sec. 1101—Skills-Based Hiring for Department of Defense Civilian Positions

Sec. 1102—Establishment of a Student Internship Program for Military Child and Youth Programs

Sec. 1103—One-Year Extension of Authority to Waive Annual Limitation on Premium Pay and Aggregate Limitation on Pay for Federal Civilian Employees Working Overseas

Sec. 1104—One-Year Extension of Temporary Authority to Grant Allowances, Benefits, and Gratuities to Civilian Personnel on Official Duty in a Combat Zone

Sec. 1105—Living Quarter Allowance for Department of Defense Civilian Employees with Permanent Duty Station in Guam

Sec. 1106—Pilot Program on Integration of United States Tech Force with Skills-Based Hiring Authorities

Sec. 1107—Enhanced Hiring Authority for Instructor Pilots and Civilian Simulator Instructors

Sec. 1108—Pilot Program on Tech Talent Competitiveness

## **TITLE XIV—OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS**

### **LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS**

#### **SUBTITLE B—OTHER MATTERS**

Sec. 1412—Authorization of Appropriations for Armed Forces Retirement Home

## **TITLE XVII—OTHER DEFENSE MATTERS**

### **LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS**

Sec. 1702—Copyright to a Literary Work Produced by a Civilian Faculty Member of a Space Force Professional Military Education Program in the Course of Employment: Free Use by the Federal Government

## **DIVISION B—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATIONS**

### **TITLE XXVIII—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION GENERAL PROVISIONS**

#### **LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS**

##### **SUBTITLE B—MILITARY HOUSING REFORMS**

Sec. 2812—Expansion of Protections Against Reprisal or Retaliation For Certain Tenants of Privatized Military Housing

---

## **DIVISION A—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATIONS**

### **TITLE IV—MILITARY PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATIONS**

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE A—ACTIVE FORCES

Sec. 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, 2027:

Service	FY 2026	FY 2027		Change from	
	Authorized	Request	Committee Recommendation	FY 2027 Request	FY 2026 Authorized
Army	454,000	469,000	469,000	0	15,000
Navy	344,600	356,600	356,600	0	12,000
USMC	172,300	173,700	173,700	0	1,400
Air Force	321,500	330,400	330,400	0	8,900
Space Force	10,400	13,200	13,200	0	2,800
DOD Total	1,302,800	1,342,900	1,342,900	0	40,100

SUBTITLE B—RESERVE FORCES

Sec. 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, 2027:

Service	FY 2026	FY 2027		Change from	
	Authorized	Request	Committee Recommendation	FY 2027 Request	FY 2026 Authorized
Army National Guard	328,000	331,300	331,300	0	3,300
Army Reserve	172,000	172,000	172,000	0	0
Navy Reserve	57,500	56,500	56,500	0	-1,000
Marine Corps Reserve	33,600	34,700	34,700	0	1,100
Air National Guard	106,300	107,400	107,400	0	1,100
Air Force Reserve	67,500	67,400	67,400	0	-100
DOD Total	764,900	769,300	769,300	0	4,400
Coast Guard Reserve	8,500	8,500	8,500	0	0

Sec. 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, 2027:

Service	FY 2026	FY 2027		Change from	
	Authorized	Request	Committee Recommendation	FY 2027 Request	FY 2026 Authorized
Army National Guard	30,845	31,154	31,154	0	309
Army Reserve	16,511	16,511	16,511	0	0
Navy Reserve	10,409	10,409	10,409	0	0
Marine Corps Reserve	2,400	2,400	2,400	0	0
Air National Guard	25,982	25,533	25,533	0	-449
Air Force Reserve	6,218	6,278	6,278	0	60
DOD Total	92,365	92,285	92,285	0	-80

**Sec. 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, 2027:

Service	FY 2026	FY 2027		Change from	
	Authorized	Request	Committee Recommendation	FY 2027 Request	FY 2026 Authorized
Army National Guard	21,294	21,294	21,294	0	0
Army Reserve	6,258	6,258	6,258	0	0
Air National Guard	10,405	10,405	10,405	0	0
Air Force Reserve	6,455	6,455	6,455	0	0
DOD Total	44,412	44,412	44,412	0	0

**Sec. 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 2027 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 2026	FY 2027		Change from	
	Authorized	Request	Committee Recommendation	FY 2027 Request	FY 2026 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 Total	69,200	69,200	69,200	0	0

Sec. 415—Authorized Strengths: Senior Enlisted Members on Active Duty or on Full-Time National Guard Duty for Administration of the Marine Corps Reserve

This section would authorize an increase in senior enlisted members on active duty or on full-time national guard duty in certain grades.

TITLE V—MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE A—OFFICER POLICY

Sec. 501—Flexibility in Requirements of Selection Boards: Composition; Convening

This section would allow for flexibility in officer selection board composition.

Sec. 502—Grade of Chief of Veterinary Corps of the Army

This section would require the Chief of the Veterinary Corps of the Army to hold the grade of brigadier general.

Sec. 503—Inclusion of Judge Advocates In Global Force Management Processes

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to include Judge Advocates from the Active and Reserve Components in Global Force Management processes.

SUBTITLE B—RESERVE COMPONENT MANAGEMENT

Sec. 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.

SUBTITLE C—GENERAL SERVICE AUTHORITIES AND MILITARY RECORDS

Sec. 521—Prohibition On Use of Prediction Markets By Personnel of the Department of Defense

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to develop regulations prohibiting participation in prediction markets related to certain national security topics.

Sec. 522—Pilot Program on Modernization of Drug Testing Using Voice-Based Risk Assessment

This section would permit the Secretary of Defense to operate a pilot program using voice-based risk assessment technology to test for illicit drugs.

Sec. 523—Soldier Digital Lifecycle Modernization Initiative

This section would authorize the creation of a pilot program that utilizes existing digital platforms to better understand the various lifecycles of military servicemembers and the over all force health spanning data-driven recruiting decision to predictive retention risks to servicemember separation.

SUBTITLE D—MEMBER TRAINING

Sec. 531—Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program for Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps

This section would develop a program to assist Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps units in providing opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Sec. 532—Elimination of Cap on the Number of Cadets Or Midshipmen Who May Receive Alternative Service Obligations to Become Professional Athletes

This section would eliminate the cap on the number of cadets or midshipmen who may play professional sports.

Sec. 533—Elimination of the Right of Cadets to Automatic Reexamination

This section would eliminate the separate requirements surrounding a failed examination and makes a failed examination the same as a cadet who is reported as deficient in conduct or studies.

Sec. 534—Congressional Communications Officials of the Service Academies

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to appoint civilian employees for each of the military departments to serve as the congressional communications officials for the Board of Visitors of each of the military service academies.

Sec. 535—Revision to Decision Timeframe for Expedited Transfers at the Military Service Academies

This section would make the standard for a decision on expedited transfers for the military service academies the same as for the rest of the Department of Defense: 5 days.

Sec. 536—Establishment of the Military Service Academy Panel On Athletics

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a panel to review the impacts of NCAA rules with respect to compensation of athletes as well as the transfer portal for athletes on the military service academies.

SUBTITLE E—MEMBER EDUCATION

Sec. 541—Defense Information School: Authority to Grant Associate's Degree in Communications

This section would authorize the Defense Information School to grant a degree of associate arts in communication.

Sec. 542—Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship and Financial Assistance Program: Eligible Institutions; Continuity of Payments

This section would ensure any student in the Health Profession Scholarship Program may be detailed to any accredited civilian medical institution in the United States or Puerto Rico.

SUBTITLE F—MILITARY JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGAL MATTERS

Sec. 551—Clarification of Qualifications for Judge Advocates

This section would provide clarifications on the qualifications for Judge Advocates.

Sec. 552—Authority of Special Trial Counsel to Enter into Pretrial Agreements with Respect to Certain Offenses

This section would permit Special Trial Counsel to enter into pre-trial agreements with the same authorities and limitations as plea agreements.

Sec. 553—Clarifying Amendment to Completion of Appellate Review Under Article 57 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice

This section would clarify Article 57 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice with respect to appellate review.

#### Sec. 554—Review of Courts-Martial Records

This section would amend the review of courts-martial records when direct appeal is waived, withdrawn, or not filed.

#### Sec. 555—Clarification of Court of Criminal Appeals Review of Sentencing

This section would clarify that the portion of a sentence is not inappropriately severe if it is in the President's established sentencing parameters.

#### Sec. 556—Expansion of Victim Access to Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces

This section would permit a victim of an offense to petition the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces to review decisions and dispositions of a Court of Criminal Appeals.

#### Sec. 557—Modifications to Offense of Wrongful Broadcast or Distribution of Intimate Visual Images Under the Uniform Code of Military Justice

This section would modify the offense of wrongful broadcast or distribution of intimate visual images under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

#### Sec. 558—Policies Regarding the Reporting of Missing Members of the Armed Forces

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to establish Department-wide minimum standards for responding to reports of missing servicemembers, including how servicemember absences are categorized and notification to the appropriate military criminal investigative organization and next of kin.

#### Sec. 559—Pilot Program On Use of Advanced Monitoring and Rehabilitative Technologies in Army Correctional Facilities

This section would direct the Army Corrections Command to test the use of modern monitoring and rehabilitation technologies to improve safety, accountability, and rehabilitation outcomes within Army correctional facilities.

### SUBTITLE G—CAREER TRANSITION

#### Sec. 561—Designation of Senior Official for Military-to-Civilian Transition

This section would direct the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness to designate a senior official to oversee policy and programs related to the transition of members of the Armed Forces from Active Duty to civilian life or to the Reserve Components.

Sec. 562—Authorization of Pilot Program to Help Members Separating from Certain Armed Forces Obtain Employment as Teachers

This section would create a pilot program for servicemembers who are interested in pursuing careers in academic environments following military service.

SUBTITLE H—FAMILY PROGRAMS, CHILD CARE, AND DEPENDENT EDUCATION

Sec. 571—Extension of Non-Medical Counseling Services Program for Military Families

This section would extend non-medical counseling services for military families through the Department of Defense Military and Family Life Counseling Program until December 22, 2029.

Sec. 572—Pilot Program to Provide Financial Assistance to Members of the Armed Forces for In-Home Child Care: Inclusion of Au Pairs

This section would include au pairs as eligible in-home child care providers through the Child Care in Your Home Fee Assistance Pilot Program.

Sec. 573—Certain Assistance to Local Educational Agencies that Benefit Dependents of Military and Civilian Personnel

This section would authorize \$50.0 million for the purpose of providing assistance to local educational agencies with military dependent students, and \$20.0 million for local educational agencies eligible to receive a payment for children with severe disabilities.

Sec. 574—Authority for Pilot Program for Certain Military Spouses to Become Special Education Teachers in DoDEA Schools

This section would provide the Department of Defense the authority to conduct a 5 year pilot program that aims to recruit certain military spouses to become special education teachers in DoDEA schools.

Sec. 575—Pilot Program for Push-Text Notifications to Members and Dependents

This section would establish a pilot program to provide members of the Armed Forces and adult dependents, located outside of the United States, with certain information via text message.

SUBTITLE I—DECORATIONS AND AWARDS, REPORTS, AND OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 581—Gold Star Survivor: Definition Prescribed by Secretary of Defense

This section would amend section 1126 of title 10, United States Code, by authorizing the Secretary of Defense to prescribe the definition of a gold star survivor.

Sec. 582—Technical Correction to Authorization to Award the Distinguished-Service Cross to Isaac "Ike" Camacho

This section provides a technical correction to section 592 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026.

Sec. 583—Authorization for Posthumous Award of Medal of Honor to Rafael Peralta for Acts of Valor

This section would waive the time limitation specified in section 8298(a) and 8300 of title 10, United States Code, and authorize the award of the Medal of Honor posthumously to Rafael Peralta for acts of valor.

Sec. 584—Authorization for Award of the Distinguished-Service Cross for James O. Ratliff for Acts of Valor during the Vietnam War

This section would waive the time limitation specified in section 7272 of title 10, United States Code, and authorize the award of Distinguished-Service Cross to James O. Ratliff for acts of valor during the Vietnam war.

Sec. 585—Authorization to Award the Distinguished-Service Cross to Joseph P. Lynch for Acts of Valor as a Member of the Army During the Vietnam War

This section would waive the time limitation specified in section 7272 of title 10, United States Code, and authorize the award of Distinguished-Service Cross to Joseph P. Lynch for acts of valor during the Vietnam war.

Sec. 586—Sense of Congress Regarding Award of Medal of Honor to Thomas J. Grasso for Acts of Valor During Operation Freedom's Sentinel

This section would provide a sense of Congress that the time limitation specified in section 7274 of title 10, United States Code, should be waived and authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to Thomas J. Grasso for acts of valor.

# TITLE VI—COMPENSATION AND OTHER PERSONNEL BENEFITS

## LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

### SUBTITLE A—BONUS AND INCENTIVE PAYS

#### Sec. 601—One-Year Extension of Certain Expiring Bonus and Special Pay Authorities

This section would extend service bonus and special pay authorities until December 2027.

#### Sec. 602—Authorizing Board Certification Incentive Pay for Medical Officers with Doctoral Degrees

This section would amend section 335 of title 37, United States Code, to ensure a qualifying Doctor of Philosophy Degree is included for special and bonus pay authorities.

#### Sec. 603—Expansions of Authorities to Contract with Members of the Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps

This section would authorize an increase in contracting bonuses for members of the senior reserve officers' training corps.

### SUBTITLE B—ALLOWANCES

#### Sec. 611—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 the purpose of determining a servicemember's eligibility for a basic needs allowance.

#### Sec. 612—Payment of Costs to Ship Breast Milk of a Member Performing Certain Duty

This section would codify existing policy that permits reimbursement for the shipping of breast milk of up to \$1,000 for eligible servicemembers.

### SUBTITLE C—DEFENSE RESALE MATTERS

#### Sec. 621—Single-Use Shopping Bags in Commissary Stores

This section would amend section 2485 of title 10, United States Code, to prohibit the Defense Commissary Agency from prohibiting the use of, or charging a fee for, single-use shopping bags in a commissary store.

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

##### Sec. 631—Provision of Information Regarding Food Access and Child Care for Members Receiving Order for a Change of Permanent Station

This section would amend section 1056 of title 10, United States Code, to include information regarding food access and child care for servicemembers in permanent change of station relocation assistance programs.

### TITLE VII—HEALTH CARE PROVISIONS

#### LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

##### SUBTITLE A—TRICARE AND OTHER HEALTH BENEFITS

##### Sec. 701—Dental Readiness for Certain Members of Selected Reserve

This section would provide no cost dental coverage under TRICARE for members of the Reserve Component in the grades of E-1 through E-4.

##### Sec. 702—Expanded Access to Dental Care for Certain Dependents

This section would permit all authorized dependents to receive dental care on a space available basis from post-graduate dental residents.

##### Sec. 703—Limitation on Ability of Secretary of Defense to Modify Scope of Medical Services

This section would require updated reporting criteria for any service change request made by the Defense Health Agency.

##### Sec. 704—Prohibition on and Reversal of Actions to Modify Scope of Medical Services Provided at Certain Medical Treatment Facilities

This section would prohibit the Secretary of Defense from taking any action with respect to the service change request submitted to Congress on March 4, 2026, and requires the Secretary to reverse any steps taken to carry out that service change request within 30 days.

##### SUBTITLE B—HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 711—Improvements to Defense Health Agency

This section would require improvements to the administration of medical treatment facilities and the Defense Health Agency.

Sec. 712—Improvements to Administration of Military Medical Treatment Facilities

This section would update the administration of Military Medical Treatment facilities.

Sec. 713—Designation of Defense Health Agency as Combat Support Agency

This section would codify the Defense Health Agency as an enumerated Combat Support Agency.

Sec. 715—Availability of Combat and Operational Medicine Program Account and other funds for certain medical countermeasures

This section would authorize the Director of the Defense Health Agency to expend funds appropriated to the Combat and Operational Medicine Program account for medical readiness to fund certain medical countermeasures.

Sec. 716—Inclusion of Defense Health Agency in Reporting Requirements Relating to Unfunded Priorities

This section would require the Director of the Defense Health Agency to submit an unfunded priority list to Congress.

Sec. 717—Clarification of Consistent Evaluations of Medical Malpractice Claims

This section would ensure uniform evaluations for medical malpractice claims in the military departments.

Sec. 718—Modification to Qualification Waiver Authority for Applicants for Nursing or Practical Nurse Positions in the Department Of Defense

This section would modify the qualification waiver authority for applicants for nursing position in the Department of Defense.

Sec. 719—Notification to TRICARE Beneficiaries of Coverage Transition Requirements

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to provide TRICARE beneficiaries with notice of transition requirements.

Sec. 720—Aerial Transport and Department-Wide Capability for High-Consequence Infectious Diseases

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to carry out a program providing for long-range aerial transport of individuals infected by high-consequence infectious diseases.

Sec. 721—Pilot Program on Filling Primary Care Management Positions at Remote Military Medical Treatment Facilities

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to carry out a pilot program permitting commanders of military medical treatment facilities in remote locations to fill any medical or administrative positions necessary for the operations of the facility.

Sec. 722—Plans on Military Health System

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to provide long term plans for stabilization of the Military Health System on a quarterly basis to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services.

SUBTITLE C—STUDIES, REPORTS, AND OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 731—Quarterly Briefing on Military Treatment Facilities

This section would require the Director of Health Affairs to brief the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services on a quarterly basis to ensure the quality and effectiveness of the Military Health System.

Sec. 733—Modifications to Evaluation and Report on TRICARE Program Effectiveness

This section would restart the expired reporting requirements for the Department of Defense Health Agency and require additional elements.

Sec. 734—Extension of Extramedical Maternal Health Providers Demonstration Project

This section would extend the Doula Demonstration program from section 746(f)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283) for 3 additional years and request a feasibility briefing for the expansion of the program.

Sec. 735—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 5-year pilot program treating pregnancy as a qualifying life event for the purposes of eligibility to enroll in TRICARE Select.

Sec. 736—Access to Automated External Defibrillators During Military Physical Training

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure an automated external defibrillator is available and accessible for any required unit level physical training event or high-intensity exercise.

Sec. 737—Pilot Program on Remote Blood Pressure Monitoring for Certain Pregnant and Postpartum TRICARE Beneficiaries

This section would create a pilot program to monitor blood pressure for pregnant and postpartum TRICARE beneficiaries.

Sec. 738—Pilot Program on Secure, Mobile Personal Health Record for Members of the Armed Forces

This section would establish a pilot program that allows servicemembers to have access to their medical records via their personal mobile device to ease the record sharing aspect of transitioning from military to civilian status.

Sec. 739—Pilot Program to Provide for the Use of Blue-Light Dissipating Displays to Certain Individuals

This section would require the Director of the Defense Health Agency to conduct a pilot program for the use of blue-light dissipating displays to assist the visually impaired.

Sec. 740—Working Group on Digital Strategy for Traumatic Brain Injuries

This section would require the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs to establish a working group to develop a digital strategy that leverages artificial intelligence for the treatment of brain injuries.

Sec. 741—Study on Long-Term Effects of Military Flight Operations on Brain Health and Mental Health

The section would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a comprehensive study assessing the long-term health effects of military aviation.

Sec. 742—Study on Feasibility of Establishing Military Treatment Facility at Homestead Air Reserve Base

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a feasibility study on establishing a military medical treatment facility at Homestead Air Reserve Base.

Sec. 743—Study on Feasibility of Establishing Digital System Relating to Access to Care at Military Medical Treatment Facilities

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of establishing a digital system related to access to care at military medical treatment facilities.

Sec. 744—Review by Inspector General of the Department of Defense on Efforts to Prevent Suicide

This section would require the Inspector General of the Department of Defense to conduct a review of efforts of all military services and their approach to suicide training requirements, public awareness campaigns, and developed crisis response plans.

Sec. 745—Requirements Relating to Wellness Checks for Health and Welfare of Certain Members of the Armed Forces

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to establish policy and procedures to require a wellness check for any servicemember sustaining significant injury or illness to account for the health and welfare of the servicemember.

Sec. 746—Reports on Department of Defense Comprehensive Autism Care Demonstration Program

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to report on the implementation of the recommendations made by the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine on the comprehensive autism care demonstration program.

Sec. 747—Transition of Medics to Civilian Workforce

This section would require the Secretaries of the military departments to develop recommendations to improve the transition of medics into the civilian workforce in healthcare occupations.

## TITLE X—GENERAL PROVISIONS

## LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

### SUBTITLE D—MISCELLANEOUS AUTHORITIES AND LIMITATIONS

#### Sec. 1041—Inclusion of National Guard Relief Foundation as a Military Welfare Society for Certain Purposes

This section would expand the definition of "military welfare society" in title 10, United States Code, to include the National Guard Relief Foundation.

## TITLE XI—CIVILIAN PERSONNEL MATTERS

### LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

#### Sec. 1101—Skills-Based Hiring for Department of Defense Civilian Positions

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a skills-based hiring framework for appointment to the competitive service and the excepted service.

#### Sec. 1102—Establishment of a Student Internship Program for Military Child and Youth Programs

This section would establish a student internship for military child and youth programs.

#### Sec. 1103—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 waive limitations on premium pay for Federal civilians overseas.

#### Sec. 1104—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 extend the temporary authority to grant allowances, benefits, and gratuities for civilian personnel in a combat zone.

#### Sec. 1105—Living Quarter Allowance for Department of Defense Civilian Employees with Permanent Duty Station in Guam

This section would permit the Secretary of Defense to provide a living quarter allowance for rent or mortgage payments of civilian employees with permanent duty station in Guam.

Sec. 1106—Pilot Program on Integration of United States Tech Force with Skills-Based Hiring Authorities

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to carry out a pilot program to integrate the United States Tech Force into the Department of Defense.

Sec. 1107—Enhanced Hiring Authority for Instructor Pilots and Civilian Simulator Instructors

This section would provide direct hire authority to instructor pilots.

Sec. 1108—Pilot Program on Tech Talent Competitiveness

This section would facilitate the rapid recruitment of innovative talent in critical technology areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, business process innovation, biotechnology, and materials and manufacturing.

## TITLE XIV—OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS

### LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

#### SUBTITLE B—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 1412—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 2027 for the operation of the Armed Forces Retirement Home.

## TITLE XVII—OTHER DEFENSE MATTERS

### LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

Sec. 1702—Copyright to a Literary Work Produced by a Civilian Faculty Member of a Space Force Professional Military Education Program in the Course of Employment: Free Use by the Federal Government

This section would provide protection for the Government to use certain works produced by the civilian faculty of Space Force Professional Military Education.

## DIVISION B—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATIONS

TITLE XXVIII—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION GENERAL  
PROVISIONS

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE B—MILITARY HOUSING REFORMS

Sec. 2812—Expansion of Protections Against Reprisal or Retaliation For Certain  
Tenants of Privatized Military Housing

This section would expand whistleblower protections for tenants of privatized military housing who report housing related issues.

# **BILL LANGUAGE**

1                   **Subtitle A—Active Forces**

2   **SEC. 401 [Log 84940]. END STRENGTHS FOR ACTIVE FORCES.**

3           The Armed Forces are authorized strengths for active  
4 duty personnel as of September 30, 2027, as follows:

- 5           (1) The Army, 469,000.
- 6           (2) The Navy, 356,600.
- 7           (3) The Marine Corps, 173,700.
- 8           (4) The Air Force, 330,400.
- 9           (5) The Space Force, 13,200.

## 1                   **Subtitle B—Reserve Forces**

### 2   **SEC. 411 [Log 84941]. 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, 2027, as follows:

7                   (1) The Army National Guard of the United  
8 States, 331,300.

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

10                  (3) The Navy Reserve, 56,500.

11                  (4) The Marine Corps Reserve, 34,700.

12                  (5) The Air National Guard of the United  
13 States, 107,400.

14                  (6) The Air Force Reserve, 67,400.

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 84942]. 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, 2027, 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, 31,154.

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, 25,533.

18 (6) The Air Force Reserve, 6,278.

1 **SEC. 413 [Log 84943]. 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 2027 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 84944]. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF RESERVE PER-**  
2 **SONNEL AUTHORIZED TO BE ON ACTIVE**  
3 **DUTY FOR OPERATIONAL SUPPORT.**

4 During fiscal year 2027, 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 **SEC. 415 [Log 85584]. AUTHORIZED STRENGTHS: SENIOR**  
 2 **ENLISTED MEMBERS ON ACTIVE DUTY OR ON**  
 3 **FULL-TIME NATIONAL GUARD DUTY FOR AD-**  
 4 **MINISTRATION OF THE MARINE CORPS RE-**  
 5 **SERVE.**

6 Section 12012(a) of title 10, United States Code, is  
 7 amended by striking that part of the table pertaining to  
 8 the Marine Corps Reserve and inserting the following:

9 “Marine Corps Reserve:

1,100 .....	68	18
1,200 .....	75	20
1,300 .....	81	21
1,400 .....	87	23
1,500 .....	93	24
1,600 .....	99	26
1,700 .....	106	28
1,800 .....	112	29
1,900 .....	118	31
2,000 .....	124	33
2,100 .....	130	34
2,200 .....	137	36
2,300 .....	143	37
2,400 .....	149	39
2,500 .....	155	41
2,600 .....	161	42
2,700 .....	168	44
2,800 .....	174	46
2,900 .....	180	47
3,000 .....	186	49”.

## 1                   **Subtitle A—Officer Policy**

### 2   **SEC. 501 [log85583]. FLEXIBILITY IN REQUIREMENTS OF SE-** 3                   **LECTION   BOARDS:   COMPOSITION;   CON-** 4                   **VENING.**

5           (a) CONSIDERATION OF TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS  
6 OF OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY DES-  
7 IGNATED FOR LIMITED DUTY.—Section 612(a)(2) of title  
8 10, United States Code, is amended—

9                   (1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “and  
10           (C)” after “subparagraph (B)”; and

11                   (2) by inserting a new subparagraph (C):

12           “(C) A selection board need not include an officer  
13 from a competitive category to be considered by the board  
14 when considering officers designated for limited duty  
15 under section 8146 of this title.”.

16           (b) SELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR CONTINUATION ON  
17 ACTIVE DUTY.—

18                   (1) OFFICERS IN THE GRADE OF O-3 OR O-4.—  
19           Section 637 of title 10, United States Code, is  
20           amended, in subsection (a)(1)—

21                   (A) by striking “he is selected for continu-  
22           ation on active duty by a selection board con-  
23           vened under section 611(b) of this title.” and  
24           inserting an em dash; and

1 (B) by adding at the end the following new  
2 subparagraphs:

3 “(A) the officer is selected for continuation on  
4 active duty by a selection board convened under sec-  
5 tion 611(b) of this title; or

6 “(B) the Secretary concerned recommends all  
7 officers, whom the Secretary finds to be fully quali-  
8 fied, for continuation on active duty.”

9 (2) REGULAR OFFICERS IN THE GRADE OF O-  
10 5 OR O-6.—Such section is further amended, in sub-  
11 section (b)(1)—

12 (A) by striking “he is selected for continu-  
13 ation on active duty by a selection board con-  
14 vened under section 611(b) of this title.” and  
15 inserting an em dash; and

16 (B) by adding at the end the following new  
17 subparagraphs:

18 “(A) the officer is selected for continuation on  
19 active duty by a selection board convened under sec-  
20 tion 611(b) of this title; or

21 “(B) the Secretary concerned recommends all  
22 officers, whom the Secretary finds to be fully quali-  
23 fied, for continuation on active duty.”.

1 **SEC. 502 [Log 85384]. GRADE OF CHIEF OF THE VETERI-**  
2 **NARY CORPS OF THE ARMY.**

3 Section 7084 of title 10, United States Code, is  
4 amended—

5 (1) by striking “The Chief” and inserting “(a)  
6 APPOINTMENT.—The Chief”; and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
8 section:

9 “(b) GRADE.—The Chief of the Veterinary Corps of  
10 the Army, while so serving, holds the grade of brigadier  
11 general.”.

1 **SEC. 503 [Log 85133]. INCLUSION OF JUDGE ADVOCATES IN**  
2 **GLOBAL FORCE MANAGEMENT PROCESSES.**

3 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-  
4 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall ensure  
5 that Global Force Management plans and processes—

6 (1) specifically address the assignment and allo-  
7 cation of active duty and reserve judge advocates;  
8 and

9 (2) convey information on the staffing avail-  
10 ability of judge advocates in a manner that enables  
11 combatant commanders to readily determine the  
12 number of judge advocates who are available for per-  
13 manent assignment to the combatant commands in  
14 the event of an armed conflict.

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

3       **SEC. 511 [log85021]. 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           **Subtitle C—General Service**  
2           **Authorities and Military Records**

3   **SEC. 521 [Log 85328]. PROHIBITION ON USE OF PREDICTION**  
4                   **MARKETS BY PERSONNEL OF THE DEPART-**  
5                   **MENT OF DEFENSE.**

6           (a) **REGULATIONS REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180  
7 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
8 retary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretaries of  
9 the military departments, shall issue regulations prohib-  
10 iting members of the covered Armed Forces and civilian  
11 employees of the Department of Defense from entering  
12 into transactions on prediction markets in cases in which  
13 the member or employee—

14                   (1) at the time of the transaction, possesses  
15 material nonpublic information relevant to such  
16 transaction; or

17                   (2) may reasonably obtain such material non-  
18 public information in the course of performing offi-  
19 cial duties, including when such information would  
20 not otherwise be available to a member of the public  
21 exercising reasonable diligence.

22           (b) **ENFORCEMENT.**—The regulations under sub-  
23 section (a) shall specify a range of punishments for the  
24 use of prediction markets in violation of the regulations.

25           (c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

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

4           (2) Term “material nonpublic information”  
5           means information—

6                   (A) that a reasonable investor would con-  
7                   sider important in making an investment deci-  
8                   sion; and

9                   (B) that is not publicly available.

1 **SEC. 522 [Log 85768]. PILOT PROGRAM ON MODERNIZATION**  
2 **OF DRUG TESTING USING VOICE-BASED RISK**  
3 **ASSESSMENT.**

4 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Defense may  
5 carry out a pilot program to evaluate the use of auto-  
6 mated, voice-based risk assessment technology to support  
7 targeted drug testing of members of the Armed Forces  
8 to determine if such technology can improve the efficiency,  
9 cost-effectiveness, and operational readiness of the drug  
10 testing programs of the Department of Defense by ena-  
11 bling risk-informed testing in place of universal urinalysis.

12 (b) ELEMENTS.—If the Secretary of Defense carries  
13 out the pilot program under subsection (a), such pilot pro-  
14 gram shall—

15 (1) make use of automated, voice-based risk as-  
16 sessment technology;

17 (2) be executed as part of the Drug Demand  
18 Reduction Program of the Department of Defense;

19 (3) be conducted consistent with the goals of  
20 the drug testing program, including deterrence and  
21 to assess the security, military fitness, readiness,  
22 good order, and discipline of commands;

23 (4) be conducted in a manner that allows the  
24 results to be used for punitive or other appropriate  
25 actions; and

1           (5) be conducted in a manner that protects in-  
2           dividual privacy and complies with applicable law  
3           and Department policy.

4           (c) REPORT.—If the Secretary of Defense carries out  
5           the pilot program under subsection (a), not later than one  
6           year after the date on which the Secretary of Defense es-  
7           tablishes such pilot, the Secretary shall submit to the con-  
8           gressional defense committees an assessment of such pilot  
9           program, including the impact of the use of automated,  
10          voice-based risk assessment technology as described in  
11          subsection (a) on testing volume, cost savings, personnel  
12          time, and operational readiness.

13          (d) TERMINATION.—If the Secretary of Defense car-  
14          ries out the pilot program under subsection (a), such pilot  
15          program shall terminate on the date that is three years  
16          after the date on which such pilot program is established.

1 **SEC. 523 [Log 85198]. SOLDIER DIGITAL LIFECYCLE MOD-**  
2 **ERNIZATION INITIATIVE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Army shall  
4 carry out a pilot program to design, develop, and imple-  
5 ment an initiative to be known as the “Soldier Digital  
6 Lifecycle Modernization Initiative” to provide members of  
7 the Army, prospective recruits to the Army, and veterans  
8 of the Army with a secure, digital experience through the  
9 lifecycle of a member of the Army, including during re-  
10 cruitment and after separation.

11 (b) ELEMENTS.—The pilot program under subsection  
12 (a) shall—

13 (1) be carried out consistent with Executive  
14 Order 14338 (90 Fed. Reg. 163, relating to Improv-  
15 ing Our Nation Through Better Design) and Office  
16 of Management and Budget Memorandum M-23-22  
17 relating to Delivering a Digital-First Public Experi-  
18 ence or any successor Executive order or Office of  
19 Management and Budget memorandum;

20 (2) make use of existing digital infrastructure  
21 and systems of the Army;

22 (3) include establishment a secure digital iden-  
23 tity record enabling continuity of data from recruit-  
24 ment into the Army through separation and transi-  
25 tion to being a veteran;

1           (4) include development of a unified experience  
2 platform for members of the Army that provides in-  
3 tegrated, role-based, and personalized digital serv-  
4 ices;

5           (5) include modernization of routine adminis-  
6 trative workflows to reduce manual processing and  
7 data reentry;

8           (6) include deployment of analytics and deci-  
9 sion-support tools to inform readiness and retention  
10 decisions; and

11           (7) include enhancement of digital transition  
12 pathways to support separation from the Armed  
13 Forces and continued engagement with veterans.

14       (c) **COMMERCIAL BEST PRACTICES.**—In carrying out  
15 the pilot program required by subsection (a), the Secretary  
16 shall, to the maximum extent practicable and cost-effec-  
17 tive, make use of commercially available technologies,  
18 modular architectures, and open standards to accelerate  
19 delivery and improve user experience.

20       (d) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date  
21 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army  
22 shall submit to the congressional defense committees a re-  
23 port describing—

24           (1) the implementation plan for the initiative;

25           (2) key design and integration milestones;

1           (3) estimated costs by fiscal year;

2           (4) performance metrics to measure improve-  
3           ments in user experience, administrative burden re-  
4           duction, retention indicators, and transition out-  
5           comes; and

6           (5) any additional authorities the Secretary de-  
7           termines are required.

8           (e) TERMINATION.—The pilot program required by  
9           subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is three  
10          years after the date of the establishment of such pilot pro-  
11          gram.

1           **Subtitle D—Member Training**

2   **SEC. 531 [Log 85197]. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEER-**  
3                   **ING, AND MATHEMATICS PROGRAM FOR JUN-**  
4                   **IOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS.**

5           (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 102 of title 10, United  
6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
7 lowing new section:

8   **“§ 2037. Science, technology, engineering, and mathe-**  
9                   **tics program**

10           “(a) PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Defense shall de-  
11 velop and implement a program to assist units of the Jun-  
12 ior Reserve Officers' Training Corps in providing partici-  
13 pants opportunities in STEM fields.

14           “(b) ELEMENTS.—The program required by sub-  
15 section (a) shall include—

16                   “(1) the provision of guidance and best prac-  
17 tices for identifying, evaluating, formalizing, and  
18 managing partnerships with local educational agen-  
19 cies, community colleges and trade schools, institu-  
20 tions of higher education, private-sector entities (in-  
21 cluding non-profit organizations) with expertise in  
22 STEM field programming and career and technical  
23 education, the defense industrial base, and any other  
24 entities with capacity and capability to support  
25 learning and development in STEM fields;

1           “(2) the provision of templates for agreements  
2           to facilitate the establishment of such partnerships;

3           “(3) the establishment of a national directory of  
4           prospective partners for opportunities in STEM  
5           fields; and

6           “(4) the establishment of a directory of oppor-  
7           tunities in STEM fields for participants in the Jun-  
8           ior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps.

9           “(c) CONTINUATION OF EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS.—In  
10          carrying out this section, the Secretary of Defense shall  
11          continue and maintain any Junior Reserve Officers’  
12          Training Corps STEM field program that existed before  
13          the enactment of this section if such program dem-  
14          onstrates satisfactory participation and learning outcomes.

15          “(d) STEM FIELD DEFINED.—In this section, the  
16          term ‘STEM field’ means the fields of science, technology,  
17          engineering, or mathematics.”.

18          (b) BRIEFING.—Not later than one year after the  
19          date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense  
20          shall provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the  
21          House of Representatives and the Senate a briefing on the  
22          development, implementation, and initial outcomes of the  
23          program required by section 2037 of title 10, United  
24          States Code, as added by subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 532 [log85582]. ELIMINATION OF CAP ON THE NUMBER**  
2 **OF CADETS OR MIDSHIPMEN WHO MAY RE-**  
3 **CEIVE ALTERNATIVE SERVICE OBLIGATIONS**  
4 **TO BECOME PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES.**

5 (a) UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY.—Section  
6 7448(b)(4) of title 10, United States Code, is amended  
7 by striking “not more than five cadets, who obtain” and  
8 inserting “a cadet who obtains”.

9 (b) UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY.—Section  
10 8459(b)(4) of title 10, United States Code, is amended  
11 by striking “not more than five midshipmen, who obtain”  
12 and inserting “a midshipman who obtains”.

13 (c) UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY.—Section  
14 9448(b)(4) of title 10, United States Code, is amended  
15 by striking “not more than five cadets, who obtain” and  
16 inserting “a cadet who obtains”.

1 **SEC. 533 [Log 85536]. ELIMINATION OF THE RIGHT OF CA-**  
2 **DETS TO AUTOMATIC REEXAMINATION.**

3 (a) UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY.—Section  
4 7451 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

5 (1) in the heading, by inserting “**failure of**  
6 **an examination;**” before “**effect**”;

7 (2) in subsection (a), by striking “studies and  
8 recommended” and inserting “studies, or who fails  
9 to pass a required examination, and is rec-  
10 ommended”;

11 (3) by striking subsection (b); and

12 (4) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-  
13 section (b).

14 (b) UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY.—Section  
15 9451 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

16 (1) in the heading, by inserting “**failure of**  
17 **an examination;**” before “**effect**”;

18 (2) in subsection (a), by striking “studies and  
19 recommended” and inserting “studies, or who fails  
20 to pass a required examination, and is rec-  
21 ommended”;

22 (3) by striking subsection (b); and

23 (4) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-  
24 section (b).

1           (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
2 this section shall apply to the first academic year begin-  
3 ning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 534 [log85051]. CONGRESSIONAL COMMUNICATIONS**  
2 **OFFICIALS OF THE SERVICE ACADEMIES.**

3 (a) UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY.—Chapter  
4 753 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by insert-  
5 ing after section 7455 the following new section:

6 **“§ 7455a. Congressional communications official**

7 “(a) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary of Defense, in  
8 coordination with the Secretary of the Army, shall appoint  
9 a civilian employee of the Department of the Army to  
10 serve as the congressional communications official of the  
11 Board of Visitors under section 7455 of this title.

12 “(b) DUTIES.—(1) The congressional communica-  
13 tions official shall communicate directly with a Member  
14 of Congress, congressional defense committee, or covered  
15 congressional employee regarding the activities of such  
16 Board of Visitors.

17 “(2) The Secretary of Defense may not require the  
18 congressional communications official to obtain approval,  
19 clearance, or review of a communication under paragraph  
20 (1) before submitting such communication to a Member  
21 of Congress, congressional defense committee, or covered  
22 congressional employee.

23 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 “(1) The term ‘covered congressional employee’  
25 means an employee of a Member of Congress, or of

1 a congressional defense committee, without regard  
2 to—

3 “(A) whether such employee serves on a  
4 full-time or part-time basis; or

5 “(B) where such employee so serves.

6 “(2) The term ‘Member of Congress’ has the  
7 meaning given such term in section 1563 of this  
8 title.”.

9 (b) UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY.—Chapter  
10 853 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by insert-  
11 ing after section 8468 the following new section:

12 **“§ 8468a. Congressional communications official**

13 “(a) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary of Defense, in  
14 coordination with the Secretary of the Navy, shall appoint  
15 a civilian employee of the Department of the Navy to serve  
16 as the congressional communications official of the Board  
17 of Visitors under section 7455 of this title.

18 “(b) DUTIES.—(1) The congressional communica-  
19 tions official shall communicate directly with a Member  
20 of Congress, congressional defense committee, or covered  
21 congressional employee regarding the activities of such  
22 Board of Visitors.

23 “(2) The Secretary of Defense may not require the  
24 congressional communications official to obtain approval,  
25 clearance, or review of a communication under paragraph

1 (1) before submitting such communication to a Member  
2 of Congress, congressional defense committee, or covered  
3 congressional employee.

4 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 “(1) The term ‘covered congressional employee’  
6 means an employee of a Member of Congress, or of  
7 a congressional defense committee, without regard  
8 to—

9 “(A) whether such employee serves on a  
10 full-time or part-time basis; or

11 “(B) where such employee so serves.

12 “(2) The term ‘Member of Congress’ has the  
13 meaning given such term in section 1563 of this  
14 title.”.

15 (c) UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY.—Chapter  
16 953 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by insert-  
17 ing after section 9455 the following new section:

18 **“§ 9455a. Congressional communications official**

19 “(a) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary of Defense, in  
20 coordination with the Secretary of the Air Force, shall ap-  
21 point a civilian employee of the Department of the Air  
22 Force to serve as the congressional communications offi-  
23 cial of the Board of Visitors under section 9455 of this  
24 title.

1       “(b) DUTIES.—(1) The congressional communica-  
2 tions official shall communicate directly with a Member  
3 of Congress, congressional defense committee, or covered  
4 congressional employee regarding the activities of such  
5 Board of Visitors.

6       “(2) The Secretary of Defense may not require the  
7 congressional communications official to obtain approval,  
8 clearance, or review of a communication under paragraph  
9 (1) before submitting such communication to a Member  
10 of Congress, congressional defense committee, or covered  
11 congressional employee.

12       “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13               “(1) The term ‘covered congressional employee’  
14 means an employee of a Member of Congress, or of  
15 a congressional defense committee, without regard  
16 to—

17                       “(A) whether such employee serves on a  
18 full-time or part-time basis; or

19                       “(B) where such employee so serves.

20               “(2) The term ‘Member of Congress’ has the  
21 meaning given such term in section 1563 of this  
22 title.”.

1 **SEC. 535 [log85614]. REVISION TO DECISION TIMEFRAME**  
2 **FOR EXPEDITED TRANSFERS AT THE MILI-**  
3 **TARY SERVICE ACADEMIES.**

4 (a) UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY.—Section  
5 7461(e) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by  
6 striking “72 hours” each place it appears and inserting  
7 “five days”.

8 (b) UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY.—Section  
9 8480(e) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by  
10 striking “72 hours” each place it appears and inserting  
11 “five days”.

12 (c) UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY.—Section  
13 9461(e) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by  
14 striking “72 hours” each place it appears and inserting  
15 “five days”.

1 **SEC. 536 [log85168]. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MILITARY**  
2 **SERVICE ACADEMY PANEL ON ATHLETICS.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Defense  
4 shall establish within the Department of Defense a panel  
5 to be known as the “Military Service Academy Panel on  
6 Athletics” (referred to in this section as the “Panel”).

7 (b) REVIEW.—The Panel shall conduct a comprehen-  
8 sive review and analysis of the effects of the following on  
9 athletics at the Service Academies:

10 (1) Rules of the NCAA regarding the com-  
11 pensation of a collegiate athlete for use of the name,  
12 image, and likeness of such athlete.

13 (2) The transfer portal of the NCAA.

14 (c) REPORT.—

15 (1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than De-  
16 cember 31, 2027, the Panel shall submit to the con-  
17 gressional defense committees a written report re-  
18 garding the review under subsection (b).

19 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report shall include the  
20 following elements:

21 (A) The evaluation of the Panel of the ef-  
22 fects described in subsection (b) on the recruit-  
23 ment, retention, and military readiness of ca-  
24 dets and midshipmen at the Service Academies  
25 who are collegiate athletes.

1 (B) The legal and ethical implications  
2 identified by the Panel, including with regards  
3 to the Uniform Code of Military Justice and  
4 regulations of the Department, of receipt of  
5 compensation described in subsection (b) by a  
6 member of a covered Armed Force on active  
7 duty or a cadet or midshipman subject to a  
8 commissioned service obligation.

9 (C) The effect of the transfer portal on the  
10 rosters and cohesion of athletic teams at the  
11 Service Academies, given the unique attrition  
12 challenges faced by the Service Academies.

13 (3) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall publish  
14 the report on a publicly accessible website of the De-  
15 partment. The report—

16 (A) shall be in unclassified form; and

17 (B) may not contain any personally identi-  
18 fiable information of a cadet, midshipman, or  
19 member of a covered Armed Force.

20 (d) TERMINATION.—The Panel shall terminate upon  
21 submission of the report under subsection (c).

22 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 (1) The term “commissioned service obligation”  
24 has the meaning given such term in section 7448,

1 8459, or 9448 of title 10, United States Code, as  
2 applicable.

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

6 (3) The term “NCAA” means the National Col-  
7 legiate Athletic Association.

8 (4) The term “Service Academy” has the mean-  
9 ing given such term in section 347 of title 10,  
10 United States Code.

## 1           **Subtitle E—Member Education**

### 2   **SEC. 541 [log85505]. DEFENSE INFORMATION SCHOOL: AU-** 3                   **THORITY TO GRANT ASSOCIATE’S DEGREE IN** 4                   **COMMUNICATIONS.**

5           (a) **AUTHORITY.**—Chapter 108 of title 10, United  
6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
7 lowing new section:

#### 8   **“§ 2169a Defense Information School: degree of asso-** 9                   **ciate of arts**

10           “(a) **DEGREE GRANTING AUTHORITY.**—Pursuant to  
11 regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, the  
12 Commandant of the Defense Information School may con-  
13 fer upon a student of the Defense Information School an  
14 associate of arts degree in communications.

15           “(b) **LIMITATION.**—A degree may be conferred upon  
16 a student under this section only after the Provost of the  
17 Defense Information School certifies to the Commandant  
18 that the student has satisfied all the requirements pre-  
19 scribed for the degree.”.

20           (b) **REPORTING.**—

21                   (1) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than one  
22 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and  
23 annually thereafter, subject to termination under  
24 paragraph (3), the Secretary of Defense shall submit  
25 to the congressional defense committees a report re-

1       garding the implementation of section 2169a of such  
2       title, as added by subsection (a).

3           (2) ELEMENTS.—A report under this sub-  
4       section shall include the plan and timeline of the  
5       Secretary to carry out such implementation.

6           (3) TERMINATION.—The report under this sub-  
7       section shall terminate on the day that the Com-  
8       mandant of the Defense Information School first  
9       confers a degree under such section.

1 **SEC. 542 [log85237]. ARMED FORCES HEALTH PROFESSIONS**  
2 **SCHOLARSHIP AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**  
3 **PROGRAM: ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS; CON-**  
4 **TINUITY OF PAYMENTS.**

5 Section 2127 of title 10, United States Code, is  
6 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
7 sections:

8 “(f) The Secretary of Defense shall consider an ac-  
9 credited civilian educational institution eligible for a pay-  
10 ment, contract, or determination under this section unless  
11 the Secretary determines that the accreditation of such in-  
12 stitution is under review for potential adverse action.

13 “(g)(1) The Secretary of Defense may cease pay-  
14 ments described in paragraph (2) only if—

15 “(A) the Secretary makes a determination de-  
16 scribed in subsection (f); or

17 “(B) the member of the program is dropped  
18 from the program as described in subsection (e) of  
19 section 2123 of this title.

20 “(2) Payments described in this paragraph are pay-  
21 ments—

22 “(A) under this section;

23 “(B) to an accredited civilian educational insti-  
24 tution;

25 “(C) for educational expenses of a member of  
26 the program; and

1           “(D) incurred in the course of study of such  
2           member of the program.”.

1     **Subtitle F—Military Justice and**  
2                   **Other Legal Matters**

3     **SEC. 551 [Log 85527]. CLARIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS**  
4                   **FOR JUDGE ADVOCATES.**

5             Section 806(a)(1)(B) of title 10, United States Code  
6 (article 6(a)(1)(B) of the Uniform Code of Military Jus-  
7 tice), is amended by striking “license status that provides  
8 current eligibility to actively practice law before such  
9 court” and inserting “license status, in good standing,  
10 that provides eligibility to practice law”.

1 **SEC. 552 [Log 85680]. AUTHORITY OF SPECIAL TRIAL COUN-**  
2 **SEL TO ENTER INTO PRETRIAL AGREEMENTS**  
3 **WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN OFFENSES.**

4 Section 824a(c) of title 10, United States Code (arti-  
5 cle 24a(c) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), is  
6 amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (3)—

8 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
9 (A), by striking “paragraph (5)” and inserting  
10 “paragraphs (4) and (6)”; and

11 (B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “or  
12 pretrial agreement” after “plea agreement”;

13 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as  
14 paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively; and

15 (3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-  
16 lowing new paragraph:

17 “(4) PRETRIAL AGREEMENTS.—If a special  
18 trial counsel exercises authority pursuant to sub-  
19 section (d) over an offense that occurred before Jan-  
20 uary 1, 2019, the special trial counsel may enter  
21 into a pretrial agreement with the accused in accord-  
22 ance with regulations prescribed by the President.  
23 Upon acceptance of such an agreement by the mili-  
24 tary judge of a general or special court-martial, the  
25 agreement shall bind the parties and the convening  
26 authority.”.

1 **SEC. 553 [Log 85714]. CLARIFYING AMENDMENT TO COM-**  
2 **PLETION OF APPELLATE REVIEW UNDER AR-**  
3 **TICLE 57 OF THE UNIFORM CODE OF MILI-**  
4 **TARY JUSTICE.**

5 Section 857(c) of title 10, United States Code (article  
6 57(c) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), is amend-  
7 ed—

8 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-  
9 graph (3);

10 (2) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “Appeals  
11 and—” and all that follows and inserting “Appeals  
12 and the review and time requirements described in  
13 paragraph (2) are satisfied.”; and

14 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-  
15 lowing new paragraph:

16 “(2) REVIEW AND TIME REQUIREMENTS.—The  
17 review and time requirements referred to in para-  
18 graph (1)(B) are satisfied if any of the following ap-  
19 plies:

20 “(A) The time for the accused to file a pe-  
21 tition for review by the Court of Appeals for the  
22 Armed Forces has expired and the accused has  
23 not filed a petition for such review in a timely  
24 manner and the case is not otherwise under re-  
25 view by that Court.

1           “(B) A petition for review by the Court of  
2 Appeals for the Armed Forces is withdrawn by  
3 the accused.

4           “(C) In the case of a petition for review by  
5 the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces that  
6 has been timely filed and not withdrawn, the  
7 petition—

8           “(i)(I) is denied or otherwise rejected  
9 by the Court of Appeals for the Armed  
10 Forces; or

11           “(II) the review requested by the peti-  
12 tion is completed in accordance with the  
13 judgment of the Court of Appeals for the  
14 Armed Forces; and

15           “(ii) with respect to subsequent review  
16 by the Supreme Court—

17           “(I) a petition for a writ of cer-  
18 tiorari as provided in section 1259 of  
19 title 28 is not filed within the time  
20 limits prescribed by the Supreme  
21 Court;

22           “(II) such a petition for a writ of  
23 certiorari is rejected by the Supreme  
24 Court;

1                   “(III) such a petition for a writ  
2                   of certiorari is withdrawn by the peti-  
3                   tioner; or

4                   “(IV) review is otherwise com-  
5                   pleted in accordance with the judg-  
6                   ment of the Supreme Court.”.

1 **SEC. 554 [Log 85715]. REVIEW OF COURTS-MARTIAL**  
2 **RECORDS.**

3 (a) REVIEW WHEN DIRECT APPEAL IS WAIVED,  
4 WITHDRAWN, OR NOT FILED.—Section 865(d) of title 10,  
5 United States Code (article 65(d) of the Uniform Code  
6 of Military Justice), is amended—

7 (1) by striking paragraph (2);

8 (2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-  
9 graph (2); and

10 (3) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated—

11 (A) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking  
12 “subparagraph (A), (B), or (C)” and inserting  
13 “subparagraph (A) or (B)”; and

14 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “con-  
15 clusions” and all that follows and inserting “a  
16 conclusion on each of the following matters:

17 “(i) Whether the court had jurisdic-  
18 tion over the accused and the offense.

19 “(ii) Whether the charge and speci-  
20 fication stated an offense.

21 “(iii) Whether the sentence was within  
22 the limits prescribed as a matter of law.”.

23 (b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 869(c)(2) of  
24 title 10, United States Code (article 69(c)(2) of the Uni-  
25 form Code of Military Justice), is amended by striking

- 1 “section 865(b) of this title (article 65(b))” and inserting
- 2 “section 865(d) of this title (article 65(d))”.

1 **SEC. 555. [Log 85713] CLARIFICATION OF COURT OF CRIMI-**  
2 **NAL APPEALS REVIEW OF SENTENCING.**

3 Section 866(e)(1) of title 10, United States Code (ar-  
4 ticle 66(e)(1) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice),  
5 is amended—

6 (1) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as  
7 follows:

8 “(B) whether the portion of the sentence  
9 extending to confinement is inappropriately se-  
10 vere, except that in the case of an offense for  
11 which the President has established a sen-  
12 tencing parameter for such portion pursuant to  
13 section 539E(e) of the National Defense Au-  
14 thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022, the Court  
15 may not consider such portion inappropriately  
16 severe if such portion is at or below the upper  
17 range of such sentencing parameter;” and

18 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “the sen-  
19 tence” and inserting “the portion of the sentence ex-  
20 tending to confinement”.

1 **SEC. 556 [Log 85615]. EXPANSION OF VICTIM ACCESS TO**  
2 **COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE ARMED**  
3 **FORCES.**

4 (a) REVIEW BY COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE ARMED  
5 FORCES.—Section 867 of title 10, United States Code (ar-  
6 ticle 67 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), is  
7 amended—

8 (1) by redesignating subsections (c) through (e)  
9 as subsections (d) through (f), respectively; and

10 (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-  
11 lowing new subsection:

12 “(c)(1) The Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces  
13 may review all decisions taken by a Court of Criminal Ap-  
14 peals pursuant to a petition filed by a victim of an offense  
15 under this chapter under section 806b(e) of this title (arti-  
16 cle 6b(e)) and on good cause shown.

17 “(3) The victim of an offense under this chapter may  
18 petition the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces for  
19 review pursuant to paragraph (1) not later than 60 days  
20 after the earlier of—

21 “(A) the date on which the victim is notified of  
22 the decision of the Court of Criminal Appeals on a  
23 petition pursuant to section 806b(e) of this title (ar-  
24 ticle 6b(e)); or

25 “(B) the date on which a copy of the decision  
26 of the Court of Criminal Appeals, after being served

1 on counsel for the victim (if the victim has counsel),  
2 is deposited into the United States mails for delivery  
3 by first-class certified mail to the victim at an ad-  
4 dress provided by the victim or at the latest address  
5 listed for the victim in the record of any proceedings  
6 held pursuant to section 830a or 832 of this title  
7 (article 30a or 32) or during trial.

8 “(4) Review of any decision of a Court of Criminal  
9 Appeals on a petition for writ of mandamus described in  
10 section 806b(e) of this title (article 6b(e)) shall have pri-  
11 ority in the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, as  
12 determined under the rules of the Court of Appeals for  
13 the Armed Forces.”.

14 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 806b(e)(3)  
15 of title 10, United States Code (article 6b(e)(3) of the  
16 Uniform Code of Military Justice), is amended by striking  
17 subparagraph (C).

1 **SEC. 557 [Log 85664]. MODIFICATIONS TO OFFENSE OF**  
2 **WRONGFUL BROADCAST OR DISTRIBUTION**  
3 **OF INTIMATE VISUAL IMAGES UNDER THE**  
4 **UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE.**

5 Section 917a of title 10, United States Code (article  
6 117a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice) is amended  
7 to read as follows:

8 **“§ 917a. Art. 117a. Wrongful broadcast, distribution,**  
9 **or publication of intimate visual images**

10 “(a) PROHIBITION.—Any person subject to this chap-  
11 ter who—

12 “(1) knowingly and wrongfully broadcasts, dis-  
13 tributes, or publishes a covered image involving a  
14 person who—

15 “(A) is at least 18 years of age at the time  
16 the image was created;

17 “(B) is identifiable from the image, or  
18 from information displayed or provided in con-  
19 nection with the image;

20 “(C) did not consent to the broadcast, dis-  
21 tribution, or publication of the image; and

22 “(D) did not, in a public or commercial  
23 setting, voluntarily—

24 “(i) display the private area depicted  
25 in the image; or

1                   “(ii) engage in the sexually explicit  
2                   conduct depicted in the image;

3                   “(2) knowingly and wrongfully broadcasts, dis-  
4                   tributes, or publishes an authentic covered image  
5                   and knows or reasonably should have known that the  
6                   image was made under circumstances in which the  
7                   identifiable individual in the image retained a rea-  
8                   sonable expectation of privacy regarding any broad-  
9                   cast, distribution, or publication of the image; or

10                  “(3) knowingly and wrongfully broadcasts, dis-  
11                  tributes, or publishes a covered image and knows or  
12                  reasonably should have known that the broadcast,  
13                  distribution, or publication of the covered image is  
14                  likely—

15                  “(A) to cause harm, harassment, intimidati-  
16                  on, emotional distress, or financial loss for the  
17                  identifiable individual in the image; or

18                  “(B) to harm substantially the identifiable  
19                  individual with respect to that person’s health,  
20                  safety, business, calling, career, financial con-  
21                  duction, reputation, or personal relationships,

22 is guilty of an offense under this section (article) and shall  
23 be punished as a court-martial may direct.

24                  “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section (article):

1           “(1) AUTHENTIC.—The term ‘authentic’, when  
2           used with respect to an image, means a visual image  
3           of an identifiable individual that accurately rep-  
4           resents the individual, and has not been created, al-  
5           tered, manipulated, or generated through the use of  
6           machine learning or artificial intelligence in a man-  
7           ner that would cause a reasonable person to perceive  
8           the authentic visual image as anything other than a  
9           genuine, unmodified, or not digitally forged visual  
10          image.

11          “(2) BROADCAST.—The term ‘broadcast’ means  
12          to electronically transmit a visual image with the in-  
13          tent that it be viewed by a person.

14          “(3) COVERED IMAGE.—The term ‘covered  
15          image’ means an authentic or digitally forged visual  
16          image of—

17                 “(A) the private area of a person; or

18                 “(B) sexually explicit conduct involving a  
19          person.

20          “(4) DIGITALLY FORGED.—The term ‘digitally  
21          forged’, when used with respect to an image, means  
22          any visual image of an identifiable individual created  
23          through the use of software, machine learning, arti-  
24          ficial intelligence, or any other computer-generated  
25          or technological means, including by adapting, modi-

1       fying, manipulating, or altering an authentic visual  
2       image, that, when viewed as a whole by a reasonable  
3       person, is indistinguishable from an authentic visual  
4       image of the individual and does not accurately re-  
5       flect the original source or reality.

6           “(5) DISTRIBUTE.—The term ‘distribute’  
7       means to deliver to the actual or constructive posses-  
8       sion of another person, including transmission by  
9       mail or electronic means.

10          “(6) IDENTIFIABLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term  
11       ‘identifiable individual’ means an individual whose  
12       face, likeness, other distinguishing characteristic (in-  
13       cluding a unique birthmark or other recognizable  
14       feature), or other personally identifiable information  
15       is displayed in connection with a covered image.

16          “(7) PRIVATE AREA.—The term ‘private area’  
17       means the naked or underwear-clad genitalia, anus,  
18       buttocks, or female areola or nipple.

19          “(8) PUBLISH.—The term ‘publish’ means to  
20       display, exhibit, present, or otherwise make a cov-  
21       ered image available for viewing by another person  
22       in any medium without regard to whether such  
23       image is—

24           “(A) directly shown to another person; or

25           “(B) broadcast or distributed.

1           “(9) REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF PRI-  
2           VACY.—The term ‘reasonable expectation of privacy’  
3           means circumstances in which a reasonable person  
4           would believe that a private area of the person, or  
5           sexually explicit conduct involving the person, would  
6           not be visible to the public.

7           “(10) SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONDUCT.—The  
8           term ‘sexually explicit conduct’ means actual or sim-  
9           ulated—

10           “(A) genital-genital contact, oral-genital  
11           contact, anal-genital contact, oral-anal contact,  
12           or the transfer of bodily sexual fluids on to any  
13           part of the body of an identifiable individual,  
14           whether between persons of the same or oppo-  
15           site sex;

16           “(B) bestiality;

17           “(C) masturbation; or

18           “(D) sadistic or masochistic abuse.

19           “(11) VISUAL IMAGE.—The term ‘visual image’  
20           means—

21           “(A) any developed or undeveloped photo-  
22           graph, picture, film, or video;

23           “(B) any digital or computer image, pic-  
24           ture, film, or video made by any means, includ-

1           ing those transmitted by any means, even if not  
2           stored in a permanent format;  
3           “(C) any digital or electronic data capable  
4           of conversion into a visual image; or  
5           “(D) any visual image that is digitally  
6           forged.”.

1 **SEC. 558 [Log 85046]. POLICIES REGARDING THE REPORT-**  
2 **ING OF MISSING MEMBERS OF THE ARMED**  
3 **FORCES.**

4 (a) POLICIES REQUIRED.—Chapter 80 of title 10,  
5 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the  
6 following new section.

7 **“§ 1568. Policies regarding the reporting of missing**  
8 **members of the Armed Forces**

9 “The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe policies for  
10 the Department of Defense that establish minimum stand-  
11 ards with respect to reporting the discovery that a member  
12 of the armed forces is missing. Such policies shall in-  
13 clude—

14 “(1) standards for the categorization of ab-  
15 sences of members of the armed forces;

16 “(2) a requirement that the appropriate mili-  
17 tary criminal investigative organization be notified  
18 not later than three hours after a member of the  
19 armed forces is discovered to be missing; and

20 “(3) a requirement that the primary next of kin  
21 of the member (as defined in section 1513 of this  
22 title) be notified not later than eight hours after a  
23 member of the armed forces is discovered to be miss-  
24 ing.”.

25 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of Defense  
26 shall prescribe policies required by section 1568 of title

1 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this  
2 section, not later than 180 days after the date of the en-  
3 actment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 559 [Log 85040]. PILOT PROGRAM ON USE OF AD-**  
2 **VANCED MONITORING AND REHABILITATIVE**  
3 **TECHNOLOGIES IN ARMY CORRECTIONAL FA-**  
4 **CILITIES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than one year  
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
7 of the Army, acting through the Commanding General of  
8 the Army Corrections Command, shall carry out a pilot  
9 program (referred to in this section as the “Pilot Pro-  
10 gram”) to evaluate the use of advanced monitoring and  
11 rehabilitative technologies in Army correctional facilities  
12 to improve safety, accountability, rehabilitation outcomes,  
13 and operational efficiency.

14 (b) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary of the Army shall se-  
15 lect one or more correctional facilities of the Army in  
16 which to implement the Pilot Program.

17 (c) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out  
18 the Pilot Program, the Secretary of the Army shall—

19 (1) ensure that personnel participating in the  
20 Program receive appropriate training;

21 (2) establish safeguards to protect privacy and  
22 civil liberties; and

23 (3) develop performance metrics to measure the  
24 effectiveness of the technologies evaluated under the  
25 Program in reducing misconduct, improving compli-

1       ance, enhancing rehabilitation outcomes, and sup-  
2       porting reintegration efforts.

3       (d) REPORTS.—

4           (1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than one year  
5       after the date on which of the Pilot Program com-  
6       mences, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to  
7       the congressional defense committees a initial report  
8       on the progress of the Program.

9           (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 30 days  
10      after the date on which the Pilot Program termi-  
11      nates under subsection (e), the Secretary of the  
12      Army shall submit to the congressional defense com-  
13      mittees a final report on the Program.

14          (3) ELEMENTS.—Each of the reports under  
15      paragraphs (1) and (2) shall include—

16           (A) an evaluation of the costs of the Pro-  
17      gram as of the date of the report, including the  
18      costs of the technologies evaluated under the  
19      Program;

20           (B) any measurable outcomes achieved by  
21      the program as of such date;

22           (C) recommendations as to whether any  
23      technologies evaluated under the Program are  
24      suitable for implementation across the Army  
25      Corrections Command; and

1 (D) such other information as the Sec-  
2 retary of the Army determines appropriate.

3 (e) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out the  
4 Pilot Program shall terminate five years after the date of  
5 the enactment of this Act.

6 (f) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “advanced  
7 monitoring and rehabilitative technologies” means emerg-  
8 ing technologies appropriate for correctional environments  
9 such as secure digital platforms, biometric identification  
10 systems, data analytics, or other such technologies.

1           **Subtitle G—Career Transition**

2   **SEC. 561 [Log 85195]. DESIGNATION OF SENIOR OFFICIAL**  
3                   **FOR MILITARY-TO-CIVILIAN TRANSITION.**

4           (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 58 of title 10, United  
5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
6 lowing new section:

7   **“§ 1156. Senior official for military-to-civilian transi-**  
8                   **tion**

9           “(a) DESIGNATION.—The Under Secretary of De-  
10 fense for Personnel and Readiness shall designate a senior  
11 official of the Department of Defense to oversee policy and  
12 programs related to the transition of members of the  
13 armed forces from active duty to civilian life or reserve  
14 components.

15           “(b) QUALIFICATIONS.—The official designated  
16 under paragraph (1) shall be designated from among indi-  
17 viduals with extensive experience with veterans services  
18 and knowledge of the transition from active duty to civil-  
19 ian life and reserve components..

20           “(c) ROLE, RESPONSIBILITY, AND AUTHORITY.—(1)  
21 Subject to paragraph (2), the Under Secretary of Defense  
22 for Personnel and Readiness shall prescribe the roles, re-  
23 sponsibilities, and authorities of the official designated  
24 under subsection (a).

1           “(2) The roles, responsibilities, and authorities pre-  
2 scribed under paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to  
3 the transition of members of the armed forces from active  
4 duty to civilian life and reserve components and the fami-  
5 lies of such members experiencing such transition—

6           “(A) serving as the principal advisor to the Sec-  
7 retary of Defense, the Deputy Secretary of Defense,  
8 and the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel  
9 and Readiness on policies, operations, and programs  
10 and activities relating to the transition of members;

11           “(B) assisting the Secretary of Defense, the  
12 Deputy Secretary of Defense, and the Under Sec-  
13 retary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness with  
14 policies, operations, and programs and activities re-  
15 lating to the transition of members;

16           “(C) working, in consultation with the Sec-  
17 retary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Labor,  
18 and the Secretary of Education, to improve the effi-  
19 ciency and effectiveness of all activities relating to  
20 the transition of members;

21           “(D) serving as the chief transition officer of  
22 the Department of Defense, with the mission of co-  
23 ordinating and overseeing the effectiveness of transi-  
24 tion programs of the Department of Defense and en-  
25 suring all members of the armed forces are well

1 equipped for civilian life or the reserve components,  
2 as the case may be;

3 “(E) overseeing the implementation of transi-  
4 tion programs in the Department of Defense;

5 “(F) conducting a review and assessment of all  
6 transition programs and services offered by the De-  
7 partment of Defense, including the programs under  
8 this chapter, and proposing legislative or administra-  
9 tive action—

10 “(i) to improve the efficacy and efficiency  
11 of the programs; and

12 “(ii) to ensure compliance with all legal re-  
13 quirements related to transition assistance; and

14 “(G) working with Federal agencies, State and  
15 local governments, and nongovernmental organiza-  
16 tions to improve the delivery of transition support  
17 services to members and families of members.”.

18 (b) IMPLEMENTATION AND BRIEFING.—

19 (1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Under Secretary  
20 of Defense for Personnel and Readiness shall des-  
21 ignate a senior official under section 1156(a) of title  
22 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)  
23 of this section, not later than 90 days after the date  
24 of the enactment of this Act.

1           (2) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after  
2           the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
3           of Defense shall provide a briefing to the congres-  
4           sional defense committees on—

5                   (A) the status of the designation of the of-  
6                   ficial under subsection (a); and

7                   (B) the implementation of the roles, re-  
8                   sponsibilities, and authorities of the official  
9                   under subsection (b).

1 **SEC. 562 [log85775]. AUTHORIZATION OF PILOT PROGRAM**  
2 **TO HELP MEMBERS SEPARATING FROM CER-**  
3 **TAIN ARMED FORCES OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT**  
4 **AS TEACHERS.**

5 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of Defense may  
6 carry out a pilot program to refer covered members for  
7 employment as teachers in elementary and secondary  
8 schools that elect to participate in the pilot program.

9 (b) **PRIORITY.**—Under such a pilot program, the Sec-  
10 retary shall give priority to participating schools that need  
11 teachers of subjects in greater demand, including special  
12 education and STEM.

13 (c) **REPORT.**—Under such a pilot program, the Sec-  
14 retary shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-  
15 mittees an annual report regarding such a pilot program.  
16 Elements of such a report include the following:

17 (1) The number of covered members who apply  
18 for the pilot program, disaggregated by covered  
19 Armed Force and rank.

20 (2) The number of covered members who obtain  
21 such employment under the pilot program,  
22 disaggregated by covered Armed Force and rank.

23 (3) The locations of participating schools.

24 (4) The percentages of participating covered  
25 members who teach in subjects described in sub-  
26 section (b).

1           (5) The number and percentages of partici-  
2           pating covered members who—

3                   (A) obtain required teaching credentials by  
4                   expedited means; or

5                   (B) receive exemptions from such require-  
6                   ments.

7           (6) The results of a satisfaction survey of par-  
8           ticipating schools.

9           (7) A summary of interviews with participating  
10           covered members who obtain such employment, in-  
11           cluding such covered members who do not complete  
12           an academic year of such employment.

13           (d) TERMINATION.—This section shall cease to have  
14           any effect on the day that is five years after the date of  
15           the enactment of this Act.

16           (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17                   (1) The term “covered member” means a mem-  
18                   ber—

19                           (A) separating from a covered Armed  
20                           Force; and

21                           (B) who wishes to obtain employment as a  
22                           teacher in an elementary or secondary school.

23                   (2) The term “appropriate congressional com-  
24                   mittee” means—

1 (A) the Committee on Armed Services of  
2 the House of Representatives;

3 (B) the Committee on Armed Services of  
4 the Senate;

5 (C) the Committee on Education and  
6 Workforce of the House of Representatives; or

7 (D) the Committee on Health, Education,  
8 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

9 (3) The term “covered Armed Force” means  
10 the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Space  
11 Force.

12 (4) The term “STEM” means science, tech-  
13 nology, engineering, and mathematics.

1 **Subtitle H—Family Programs,**  
2 **Child Care, and Dependent Edu-**  
3 **cation**

4 **SEC. 571 [log85132]. EXTENSION OF NON-MEDICAL COUN-**  
5 **SELING SERVICES PROGRAM FOR MILITARY**  
6 **FAMILIES.**

7 Section 1781(d)(4) of title 10, United States Code,  
8 is amended by striking “three years after the date of the  
9 enactment of this subsection” and inserting “December  
10 22, 2029”.

1 **SEC. 572 [log85267]. PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FINAN-**  
2 **CIAL ASSISTANCE TO MEMBERS OF THE**  
3 **ARMED FORCES FOR IN-HOME CHILD CARE:**  
4 **INCLUSION OF AU PAIRS.**

5 Section 589 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry Na-  
6 tional Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (10  
7 U.S.C. 1791 note) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a)(4), by striking “subsection  
9 (b)” and inserting “subsection (c)”;

10 (2) by redesignating subsections (b) through (e)  
11 as subsections (c) through (f), respectively; and

12 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-  
13 lowing new subsection (b):

14 “(b) AU PAIRS.—The Secretary shall treat an au pair  
15 who is participating in the Au Pair program of the De-  
16 partment of State as an in-home child care provider who  
17 meets qualifications determined under subsection  
18 (a)(3)(B).”.

1 **SEC. 573 [Log 84983]. CERTAIN ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL EDU-**  
2 **CATIONAL AGENCIES THAT BENEFIT DE-**  
3 **PENDENTS OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PER-**  
4 **SONNEL.**

5 (a) CONTINUATION OF AUTHORITY TO ASSIST LOCAL  
6 EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES THAT BENEFIT DEPENDENTS  
7 OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND DEPARTMENT  
8 OF DEFENSE CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES.—

9 (1) ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOLS WITH SIGNIFI-  
10 CANT NUMBERS OF MILITARY DEPENDENT STU-  
11 DENTS.—Of the amount authorized to be appro-  
12 priated for fiscal year 2027 by section 301 and  
13 available for operation and maintenance for Defense-  
14 wide activities as specified in the funding table in  
15 section 4301, \$50,000,000 shall be available only for  
16 the purpose of providing assistance to local edu-  
17 cational agencies under subsection (a) of section 572  
18 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal  
19 Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 20 U.S.C. 7703b).

20 (2) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY DEFINED.—  
21 In this subsection, the term “local educational agen-  
22 cy” has the meaning given that term in section  
23 7013(9) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
24 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7713(9)).

25 (b) IMPACT AID FOR CHILDREN WITH SEVERE DIS-  
26 ABILITIES.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount authorized to  
2           be appropriated for fiscal year 2027 pursuant to sec-  
3           tion 301 and available for operation and mainte-  
4           nance for Defense-wide activities as specified in the  
5           funding table in section 4301, \$10,000,000 shall be  
6           available for payments under section 363 of the  
7           Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization  
8           Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (as enacted into law by  
9           Public Law 106–398; 114 Stat. 1654A–77; 20  
10          U.S.C. 7703a).

11          (2) ADDITIONAL AMOUNT.—Of the amount au-  
12          thorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2027 pur-  
13          suant to section 301 and available for operation and  
14          maintenance for Defense-wide activities as specified  
15          in the funding table in section 4301, \$10,000,000  
16          shall be available for use by the Secretary of Defense  
17          to make payments to local educational agencies de-  
18          termined by the Secretary to have higher concentra-  
19          tions of military children with severe disabilities.

20          (3) BRIEFING.—Not later than March 31,  
21          2027, the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the  
22          Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and  
23          the House of Representatives a briefing on the De-  
24          partment of Defense’s evaluation of each local edu-  
25          cational agency with higher concentrations of mili-

1 tary children with severe disabilities and subsequent  
2 determination of the amounts of impact aid each  
3 such agency shall receive.

1 **SEC. 574 [log85737]. AUTHORITY FOR PILOT PROGRAM FOR**  
2 **CERTAIN MILITARY SPOUSES TO BECOME**  
3 **SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS IN DODEA**  
4 **SCHOOLS.**

5 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of Defense may  
6 carry out a pilot program under which certain military  
7 spouses may become special education teachers in schools  
8 operated by the Department of Defense Education Activ-  
9 ity.

10 (b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—A military spouse eligible to par-  
11 ticipate in such a pilot program is a military spouse who—

12 (1) is eligible for assistance under section  
13 1784a of title 10, United States Code; and

14 (2) has a bachelor's or graduate degree from an  
15 institution of higher education.

16 (c) **ASSISTANCE.**—Under such a pilot program, the  
17 Secretary shall provide assistance under section 1784a of  
18 title 10, United States Code, to a participating military  
19 spouse to seek a certification or other credential as a spe-  
20 cial education teacher in the State in which the military  
21 spouse resides.

22 (d) **SERVICE OBLIGATION.**—As a condition of receiv-  
23 ing assistance under subsection (c), a military spouse who  
24 participates in such a pilot program shall agree to serve  
25 as a special education teacher in a school operated by the

1 Department of Defense Education Activity for a period  
2 of three years.

3 (e) STATE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may seek  
4 to enter into an agreement with a State government (or  
5 licensing body sanctioned by a State government) to expedite certification described in subsection (c).

7 (f) REPORT.—Not later than one year before the termination under subsection (g) of the authority to carry  
8 out a pilot program under this section, the Secretary shall  
9 submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report regarding such pilot program. Such report shall include the recommendation of the Secretary whether such  
10 authority should be extended or made permanent.

14 (g) TERMINATION.—The authority under this section  
15 shall terminate five years after the date of the enactment  
16 of this Act.

17 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) The term “appropriate congressional committee” means the following:

20 (A) The Committee on Armed Services of  
21 the House of Representatives.

22 (B) The Committee on Armed Services of  
23 the Senate.

24 (C) The Committee on Education and  
25 Workforce of the House of Representatives.

1           (2) The term “institution of higher education”  
2           has the meaning given such term in section 102 of  
3           the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
4           1002).

5           (3) The term “special education teacher” has  
6           the meaning given such term in section 103 of the  
7           Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003).

1 **SEC. 575 [Log 85327]. PILOT PROGRAM FOR PUSH-TEXT NO-**  
2 **TIFICATIONS TO MEMBERS AND DEPEND-**  
3 **ENTS.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than one year after  
5 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
6 Defense shall establish a pilot program to be known as  
7 the “Push-Text Initiative” (in this section referred to as  
8 the “pilot program”) to provide members of the Armed  
9 Forces, assigned to one or more military installations lo-  
10 cated outside of the United States, and the adult depend-  
11 ents of such members, with timely and relevant informa-  
12 tion via text message.

13 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Under the pilot program—

14 (1) a member of the Armed Forces assigned to  
15 a location participating in the pilot program, or the  
16 dependent of such a member, may elect to receive  
17 such information using all available text messaging  
18 contact information provided by such a member or  
19 dependent; and

20 (2) a member or dependent who elects to re-  
21 ceive information under paragraph (1) may opt out  
22 of receiving text messages under the pilot program  
23 at any time.

24 (c) COVERED INFORMATION.—Text messages trans-  
25 mitted under the pilot program shall include—

1           (1) information on employment opportunities  
2           for military spouses, career counseling, and related  
3           support programs;

4           (2) updates with respect to child care services  
5           available both on and off the installation, availability  
6           of child care, and child care fee assistance programs;

7           (3) information regarding general TRICARE  
8           program benefits, enrollment deadlines, and other  
9           health-related resources;

10          (4) notifications of changes in Department of  
11          Defense policies, regulations, or Federal laws that  
12          affect members or dependents of members; and

13          (5) any other information or resources that the  
14          Secretary considers relevant to the well-being of  
15          members and dependents of members.

16          (d) REPORT.—Not later than October 1, 2027, the  
17          Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional de-  
18          fense committees a report on the pilot program. Such re-  
19          port shall include—

20               (1) a description of how the pilot program was  
21               implemented, including the timeline, execution plan,  
22               and the official managing the pilot program;

23               (2) data on participation and usage, including  
24               the number of individuals who elected to participate,

1 the rates of enrollment and disenrollment, and the  
2 frequency and types of messages transmitted;

3 (3) any observed benefits or outcomes of the  
4 pilot program, including feedback from participants;

5 (4) an analysis of the costs of operating the  
6 pilot program and any cost savings or efficiencies  
7 achieved by consolidating or scaling back other out-  
8 reach efforts with respect to issues addressed by the  
9 pilot program; and

10 (5) the recommendations of the Secretary with  
11 respect to the feasibility and advisability of con-  
12 tinuing or expanding the pilot program to the entire  
13 Department of Defense, including any proposed  
14 modifications to the program and an assessment of  
15 the anticipated costs, resource requirements, and po-  
16 tential benefits of Department-wide implementation.

17 (e) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall termi-  
18 nate on the day that is three years after the date on which  
19 the pilot program is established.

1 **Subtitle I—Decorations and**  
2 **Awards, Reports, and Other**  
3 **Matters**

4 **SEC. 581 [log85720]. GOLD STAR SURVIVOR: DEFINITION**  
5 **PRESCRIBED BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.**

6 (a) DEFINITION PRESCRIBED BY SECRETARY OF DE-  
7 FENSE.—Section 1126 of title 10, United States Code, is  
8 amended, in subsection (d)(1), by striking “as the Secre-  
9 taries concerned shall jointly specify in regulations for  
10 purposes of this section” and inserting “as the Secretary  
11 of Defense prescribes in regulations”.

12 (b) REFERENCE.—Subsection (b) of such section is  
13 amended—

14 (1) by inserting “(1)” before “Under regula-  
15 tions”; and

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

18 “(2)(A) An individual eligible for a gold star lapel  
19 button under paragraph (1) may be referred to as a ‘gold  
20 star survivor’, ‘member of a gold star family’, or ‘gold star  
21 family member’.

22 “(B) All of the individuals eligible for a gold star  
23 lapel button under paragraph (1) because of the loss of  
24 the life of one member under any circumstances prescribed

1 in subsection (a) may be referred to as a ‘gold star fam-  
2 ily’.”.

3 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 626 of the  
4 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022  
5 (Public Law 117-81; 10 U.S.C. 101 note) is amended by  
6 striking subsection (c).

1 **SEC. 582 [log85501]. TECHNICAL CORRECTION TO AUTHOR-**  
2 **IZATION TO AWARD THE DISTINGUISHED-**  
3 **SERVICE CROSS TO ISAAC “IKE” CAMACHO.**

4 Section 592 of the National Defense Authorization  
5 Act for Fiscal Year 2026 (Public Law 119–60) is amend-  
6 ed, in the section heading, by striking the third word.

1 **SEC. 583 [log85571]. AUTHORIZATION FOR POSTHUMOUS**  
2 **AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO RAFAEL**  
3 **PERALTA FOR ACTS OF VALOR.**

4 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding the time lim-  
5 itations specified in sections 8298(a) and 8300 of title 10,  
6 United States Code, or any other time limitation with re-  
7 spect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who  
8 served in the Armed Forces, the President is authorized  
9 to award the Medal of Honor, under section 8291 of such  
10 title, to Rafael Peralta for the acts of valor described in  
11 subsection (b).

12 (b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.— The acts of valor  
13 described in this subsection are the actions of Rafael  
14 Peralta as a member of the Marine Corps on November  
15 15, 2004, for which he was previously awarded the Navy  
16 Cross.

1 **SEC. 584 [Log 85767]. AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARD OF THE**  
2 **DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS FOR JAMES**  
3 **O. RATLIFF FOR ACTS OF VALOR DURING**  
4 **THE VIETNAM WAR.**

5 (a) **WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.**—Notwith-  
6 standing the time limitations specified in section 7274 of  
7 title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation  
8 with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons  
9 who served in the Armed Forces, the President may award  
10 a Distinguished-Service Cross under section 7272 of such  
11 title to James O. Ratliff for the acts of valor described  
12 in subsection (b).

13 (b) **ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.**—The acts of valor  
14 described in this subsection are the actions of James O.  
15 Ratliff on June 18, 1968, as a member of the Army during  
16 a combat mission near the village of Ap Go Cong during  
17 the Vietnam War.

1 **SEC. 585 [log85175]. AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD THE DIS-**  
2 **TINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS TO JOSEPH P.**  
3 **LYNCH FOR ACTS OF VALOR AS A MEMBER**  
4 **OF THE ARMY DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.**

5 (a) **WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.**—Notwith-  
6 standing the time limitations specified in section 7274 of  
7 title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation  
8 with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons  
9 who served in the Armed Forces, the Secretary of the  
10 Army may award the Distinguished-Service Cross under  
11 section 7272 of such title to Joseph P. Lynch for the acts  
12 of valor in described in subsection (b).

13 (b) **ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.**—The acts of valor  
14 described in this subsection are the actions of Joseph P.  
15 Lynch on April 17, 1968, as a member of the Army, dur-  
16 ing a combat mission near Khe Sanh, Republic of Viet-  
17 nam, for which he was previously awarded the Silver Star.

1 **SEC. 586 [Log 85269]. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING**  
2 **AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO THOMAS J.**  
3 **GRASSO FOR ACTS OF VALOR DURING OPER-**  
4 **ATION FREEDOM'S SENTINEL.**

5 It is the sense of Congress that—

6 (1) the Secretary of Defense should review the  
7 acts of valor of Thomas J. Grasso as a Sergeant  
8 First Class in the Army during Operation Freedom's  
9 Sentinel to determine whether to recommend to the  
10 President to award Thomas J. Grasso the Medal of  
11 Honor for such acts of valor; and

12 (2) subject to the enactment of legislation to  
13 waive the time limitations in section 7274 of title  
14 10, United States Code, the President should award  
15 the Medal of Honor to Thomas J. Grasso for such  
16 acts of valor if the Secretary so recommends.



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 2026” and inserting “December 31, 2027”:

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, 2026”  
11          and inserting “December 31, 2027”; 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          2026” and inserting “December 31, 2027”.

1 **SEC. 602 [log85533]. AUTHORIZING BOARD CERTIFICATION**  
2 **INCENTIVE PAY FOR MEDICAL OFFICERS**  
3 **WITH DOCTORAL DEGREES.**

4 Section 335(c)(2) of title 37, United States Code, is  
5 amended by inserting “, or holds a doctoral degree that  
6 the Secretary concerned determines appropriate,” after  
7 “is board certified”.

1 **SEC. 603 [log85658]. EXPANSIONS OF AUTHORITIES TO CON-**  
2 **TRACT WITH MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR RE-**  
3 **SERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS.**

4 (a) EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT WITH  
5 MEMBERS INELIGIBLE FOR ADVANCED TRAINING.—Sec-  
6 tion 2103a(a) of title 10, United States Code is amended  
7 in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “who  
8 has completed successfully the first year of a four-year  
9 Senior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps course and”.

10 (b) CONTRACTING BONUS: INCREASED MAXIMUM  
11 BONUS; EXPANSION OF TRAINING COVERED BY CON-  
12 TRACT.—Section 336 of title 37, United States Code, is  
13 amended—

14 (1) in subsection (b), by striking “\$5,000” and  
15 inserting “\$15,000”; and

16 (2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “field train-  
17 ing or a practice cruise under section  
18 2104(b)(6)(A)(ii) of title 10” and inserting “training  
19 requirements prescribed by the Secretary con-  
20 cerned”.

1                   **Subtitle B—Allowances**

2   **SEC. 611 [log85105]. 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. 612 [log85093]. PAYMENT OF COSTS TO SHIP BREAST**  
2 **MILK OF A MEMBER PERFORMING CERTAIN**  
3 **DUTY.**

4 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—Section 453 of title 37, United  
5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
6 lowing new subsection:

7 “(j) **COSTS TO SHIP BREAST MILK.**—(1) The Sec-  
8 retary concerned shall pay directly, or reimburse a covered  
9 member for, the costs for shipping expressed breast milk  
10 of the covered member to be used by the infant child of  
11 such member because the infant is separated from the  
12 member by reason of a qualifying circumstance.

13 “(2) The costs paid or reimbursed by the Secretary  
14 concerned with respect to a covered member for a single  
15 qualifying event may not exceed \$1,000.

16 “(3) A covered member shall be eligible for a payment  
17 or reimbursement under paragraph (1) during the period  
18 in which the member is eligible for breastfeeding support  
19 pursuant to chapter 55 of title 10.

20 “(4) In this subsection:

21 “(A) The term ‘covered member’ means a mem-  
22 ber of the armed forces serving on active duty or in-  
23 active duty training.

24 “(B) The term ‘qualifying circumstance’ means,  
25 with respect to a covered member, any of the fol-  
26 lowing:

1           “(i) The covered member is performing  
2 temporary duty pursuant to orders.

3           “(ii) The covered member is undergoing a  
4 permanent change of station, regardless of  
5 whether the tour of duty is an accompanied or  
6 unaccompanied tour of duty.

7           “(iii) The covered member is performing  
8 annual training duty.

9           “(iv) The covered member is performing  
10 inactive-duty training.”.

11       (b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense  
12 shall—

13           (1) prescribe regulations to carry out subsection  
14 (j) of section 453 of title 37, United States Code, as  
15 added by subsection (a) of this section, in a manner  
16 that ensures parity with relevant existing programs  
17 of the Department of Defense; and

18           (2) issue implementing guidance by not later  
19 than 180 days after the date of the enactment of  
20 this Act.

1 **Subtitle C—Defense Resale Matters**

2 **SEC. 621 [log85331]. SINGLE-USE SHOPPING BAGS IN COM-**  
3 **MISSARY STORES.**

4 Section 2485 of title 10, United States Code, is  
5 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
6 section:

7 “(j) SINGLE-USE SHOPPING BAGS.—The Defense  
8 Commissary Agency may not prohibit the use of, or charge  
9 a fee for, single-use shopping bags in a commissary  
10 store.”.

1                   **Subtitle D—Other Benefits,**  
2                   **Reports, and Briefings**

3   **SEC. 631 [log85134]. PROVISION OF INFORMATION REGARD-**  
4                   **ING FOOD ACCESS AND CHILD CARE FOR**  
5                   **MEMBERS RECEIVING ORDERS FOR A**  
6                   **CHANGE OF PERMANENT STATION.**

7           Section 1056(b)(2)(F) of title 10, United States  
8 Code, is amended—

9                   (1) in clause (v), by striking “; and” and insert-  
10                   ing a semicolon;

11                   (2) by redesignating clause (vi) as clause (viii);  
12                   and

13                   (3) by inserting after clause (v) the following  
14                   new clauses:

15                   “(vi) resources regarding food access and  
16                   assistance, including the supplemental nutrition  
17                   assistance program (as such term is defined in  
18                   section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of  
19                   2008 (Public Law 88–525; 7 U.S.C. 2012)),  
20                   State requirements for eligibility for the special  
21                   supplemental nutrition program for women, in-  
22                   fants, and children established by section 17 of  
23                   the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C.  
24                   1786), and local support services;

1                   “(vii) available child care services, includ-  
2                   ing child care furnished under subchapter II of  
3                   chapter 88 of this title, other assistance fur-  
4                   nished by the Secretary of Defense, community-  
5                   based partner programs, and other resources;  
6                   and”.

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

3     **SEC. 701.[Log 85026] DENTAL READINESS FOR CERTAIN**  
4                     **MEMBERS OF SELECTED RESERVE.**

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

7             (1) in subsection (a)—

8                     (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “A den-  
9 tal insurance plan” and inserting “Except as  
10 provided by paragraph (5), a dental insurance  
11 plan”;

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

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

17                     “(5) PLAN FOR CERTAIN SELECTED RE-  
18 SERVE.—A dental benefits plan for members of the  
19 Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve in pay grade  
20 E-1, E-2, E-3, or E-4.”;

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) by redesignating subsections (f) through (l)  
8           as subsections (g) through (m), respectively;

9           (4) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-  
10          lowing new subsection (f):

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

15          (5) in subsection (i), as redesignated by para-  
16          graph (4), by striking “subsection (k)(2)” and in-  
17          serting “subsection (l)(2)”.

1 **SEC. 702.[Log 85537] EXPANDED ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE**  
2 **FOR CERTAIN DEPENDENTS.**

3 Paragraph (2) of section 1077(c) of title 10, United  
4 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

5 “(2) Dependents who are covered by a dental plan  
6 established under section 1076a of this title may be treat-  
7 ed on a space available basis by postgraduate dental resi-  
8 dents in a dental treatment facility of the uniformed serv-  
9 ices under a graduate dental education program accredited  
10 by the American Dental Association if the Secretary of  
11 Defense determines that adequate resources exist to pro-  
12 vide such treatment.”.

1 **SEC. 703.[Log 85560] LIMITATION ON ABILITY OF SEC-**  
2 **RETARY OF DEFENSE TO MODIFY SCOPE OF**  
3 **MEDICAL SERVICES.**

4 (a) LIMITATION.—Section 1073d(f) of title 10,  
5 United States Code, is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “a notifica-  
7 tion of” and inserting “a notification under para-  
8 graph (2) and a report under paragraph (3) regard-  
9 ing”; and

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

12 “(3) Each report under paragraph (1) shall contain  
13 the following:

14 “(A) A budget that is consistent with the re-  
15 quirements under this chapter regarding access to  
16 medical care and the quality of such care.

17 “(B) A description of how the Secretary uses  
18 enhanced appointment and compensation authorities,  
19 including under section 1599c of this title, to recruit  
20 and retain civilian employees.

21 “(C) An analysis of the effects to services at a  
22 military medical treatment facility when any medical  
23 provider who is a member of the armed forces per-  
24 manently changes station and the position of such  
25 member is not filled (whether by a member, a civil-  
26 ian, or a contractor).

1           “(D) The number of positions required to fully  
2 staff the current military health system, as of the  
3 date of the report, and the number of such unfilled  
4 positions, including with respect to whether such po-  
5 sitions would be filled by a member, a civilian, or a  
6 contractor.

7           “(E) An analysis of the ability of the managed  
8 care network to absorb a member or covered bene-  
9 ficiary that cannot be provided care at a military  
10 medical treatment facility, including an explanation  
11 of the exact elements used in developing a cost anal-  
12 ysis between such providing care through such net-  
13 work and such facilities.

14           “(F) An analysis of the ability of the Defense  
15 Health Agency to encourage members and covered  
16 beneficiaries to use military medical treatment facili-  
17 ties over the managed care network.

18           “(G) The status of efforts to close all rec-  
19 ommendations by the Comptroller General of the  
20 United States contained in the July 2025 report ti-  
21 tled ‘Defense Health Care: Information Needed to  
22 Improve Monitoring of Military Personnel Staffing  
23 at Medical Facilities’ and numbered GAO-25-  
24 106988.

1           “(H) The status of efforts to close all rec-  
2           ommendations by the Comptroller General contained  
3           in the April 2025 report titled ‘Defense Healthcare  
4           Actions Needed to Address Long-Standing Manage-  
5           ment Challenges with Medical Facilities’ and num-  
6           bered GAO-25-107432.

7           “(I) The status of efforts to close all rec-  
8           ommendations by the Inspector General of the De-  
9           partment of Defense contained in the December  
10          2025 report titled ‘Audit of the Defense Health  
11          Agency’s Management of Military Medical Treat-  
12          ment Facilities Outside the Continental United  
13          States in Meeting Access to Primary Care Stand-  
14          ards’ and numbered DODIG-2026-025.”.

15          (b) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by sub-  
16          section (a) shall apply with respect to any modification  
17          of the scope of medical care proposed by the Secretary  
18          of Defense on or after January 1, 2026, including such  
19          proposals submitted by the Under Secretary of Defense  
20          for Personnel and Readiness to the Committees on Armed  
21          Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate  
22          on March 4, 2026.

1 **SEC. 704.[Log 85570] PROHIBITION ON AND REVERSAL OF**  
2 **ACTIONS TO MODIFY SCOPE OF MEDICAL**  
3 **SERVICES PROVIDED AT CERTAIN MILITARY**  
4 **MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITIES.**

5 (a) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary of Defense may  
6 not take any action to carry out a service change described  
7 in subsection (c).

8 (b) REVERSAL AND RESTORATION.—Not later than  
9 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
10 Secretary of Defense shall carry out the following actions:

11 (1) Reverse any steps taken to carry out a serv-  
12 ice change described in subsection (c).

13 (2) Restore personnel and clinical services af-  
14 fected by any such service change to the level exist-  
15 ing as of March 3, 2026 (unless such level is other-  
16 wise modified by a provision of law enacted on or  
17 after such date).

18 (c) SERVICE CHANGE DESCRIBED.—A service change  
19 described in this subsection is a service change specified  
20 in the notification of service changes submitted by the  
21 Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness  
22 to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of  
23 Representatives and the Senate on March 4, 2026, pursu-  
24 ant to section 1073d(f) of title 10, United States Code,  
25 including the following:

1           (1) EISENHOWER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER,  
2 FORT GORDON, GEORGIA.—With respect to the Ei-  
3 senhower Army Medical Center, Fort Gordon, Geor-  
4 gia—

5           (A) converting the military medical treat-  
6 ment facility from an inpatient hospital to an  
7 outpatient ambulatory care center;

8           (B) discontinuing inpatient, operating, and  
9 emergency room services; and

10          (C) realigning medical manpower to other  
11 military medical treatment facilities.

12          (2) 88TH MEDICAL GROUP, WRIGHT-PATTERSON  
13 AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO.—With respect to the 88th  
14 Medical Group, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base,  
15 Ohio—

16          (A) converting the military medical treat-  
17 ment facility from an inpatient hospital to an  
18 outpatient ambulatory care center with surgical  
19 capabilities;

20          (B) discontinuing inpatient, operating, and  
21 emergency room services;

22          (C) realigning medical manpower to other  
23 military medical treatment facilities;

24          (D) closing pediatric cardiology services;  
25 and

1 (E) discontinuing contracts for chiropractic  
2 services.

3 (3) NAVAL HOSPITAL BEAUFORT, SOUTH CARO-  
4 LINA.—With respect to the Naval Hospital Beaufort,  
5 South Carolina—

6 (A) converting the military medical treat-  
7 ment facility from an inpatient hospital to an  
8 outpatient ambulatory care center;

9 (B) discontinuing inpatient, operating, and  
10 emergency room services;

11 (C) realigning medical manpower to other  
12 military medical treatment facilities; and

13 (D) discontinuing contracts for chiro-  
14 practic services.

15 (4) 22D MEDICAL GROUP, MCCONNELL AIR  
16 FORCE BASE, KANSAS.—With respect to the 22d  
17 Medical Group, McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas,  
18 limiting access to the military medical treatment fa-  
19 cility only to members of the Armed Forces serving  
20 on active duty and the dependents of such members.

21 (5) 19TH MEDICAL GROUP, LITTLE ROCK AIR  
22 FORCE BASE, ARKANSAS.—With respect to the 19th  
23 Medical Group, Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkan-  
24 sas—

1 (A) limiting access to the military medical  
2 treatment facility only to members of the  
3 Armed Forces serving on active duty and the  
4 dependents of such members; and

5 (B) discontinuing contracts for nutrition  
6 services.

7 (6) 341ST MEDICAL GROUP, MALMSTROM AIR  
8 FORCE BASE, MONTANA.—With respect to the 341st  
9 Medical Group, Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mon-  
10 tana, limiting access to the military medical treat-  
11 ment facility only to members of the Armed Forces  
12 serving on active duty and the dependents of such  
13 members.

14 (7) 28TH MEDICAL GROUP, ELLSWORTH AIR  
15 FORCE BASE, SOUTH DAKOTA.—With respect to the  
16 28th Medical Group, Ellsworth Air Force Base,  
17 South Dakota, limiting access to the military med-  
18 ical treatment facility only to members of the Armed  
19 Forces serving on active duty and the dependents of  
20 such members.

21 (8) 92D MEDICAL GROUP, FAIRCHILD AIR  
22 FORCE BASE, WASHINGTON.—With respect to the  
23 92d Medical Group, Fairchild Air Force Base,  
24 Washington, limiting access to the military medical  
25 treatment facility only to members of the Armed

1 Forces serving on active duty and the dependents of  
2 such members.

3 (9) 90TH MEDICAL GROUP, FRANCIS E. WARREN  
4 AIR FORCE BASE, WYOMING.—With respect to the  
5 90th Medical Group, Francis E. Warren Air Force  
6 Base, Wyoming, limiting access to the military med-  
7 ical treatment facility only to members of the Armed  
8 Forces serving on active duty and the dependents of  
9 such members.

10 (10) 355TH MEDICAL GROUP, DAVIS-MONTHAN  
11 AIR FORCE BASE, ARIZONA.—With respect to the  
12 355th Medical Group, Davis-Monthan Air Force  
13 Base, Arizona, limiting access to the military med-  
14 ical treatment facility only to members of the Armed  
15 Forces serving on active duty and the dependents of  
16 such members.

17 (11) 9TH MEDICAL GROUP, BEALE AIR FORCE  
18 BASE, CALIFORNIA.—With respect to the 9th Med-  
19 ical Group, Beale Air Force Base, California, lim-  
20 iting access to the military medical treatment facility  
21 only to members of the Armed Forces serving on ac-  
22 tive duty and the dependents of such members.

23 (12) 45TH MEDICAL GROUP, PATRICK SPACE  
24 FORCE BASE, FLORIDA.—With respect to the 45th  
25 Medical Group, Patrick Space Force Base, Florida,

1 limiting access to the military medical treatment fa-  
2 cility only to members of the Armed Forces serving  
3 on active duty and the dependents of such members.

4 (13) 4TH MEDICAL GROUP, SEYMOUR JOHNSON  
5 AIR FORCE BASE, NORTH CAROLINA.—With respect  
6 to the 4th Medical Group, Seymour Johnson Air  
7 Force Base, North Carolina, limiting access to the  
8 military medical treatment facility only to members  
9 of the Armed Forces serving on active duty and the  
10 dependents of such members.

11 (14) 20TH MEDICAL GROUP, SHAW AIR FORCE  
12 BASE, SOUTH CAROLINA.—With respect to the 20th  
13 Medical Group, Shaw Air Force Base, South Caro-  
14 lina—

15 (A) limiting access to the military medical  
16 treatment facility only to members of the  
17 Armed Forces serving on active duty and the  
18 dependents of such members; and

19 (B) discontinuing contracts for nutrition  
20 services.

21 (15) 460TH MEDICAL GROUP, BUCKLEY SPACE  
22 FORCE BASE, COLORADO.—With respect to the  
23 460th Medical Group, Buckley Space Force Base,  
24 Colorado, limiting access to the military medical  
25 treatment facility only to members of the Armed

1 Forces serving on active duty and the dependents of  
2 such members.

3 (16) 27TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS MEDICAL  
4 GROUP, CANNON AIR FORCE BASE, NEW MEXICO.—  
5 With respect to the 27th Special Operations Medical  
6 Group, Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico, lim-  
7 iting access to the military medical treatment facility  
8 only to members of the Armed Forces serving on ac-  
9 tive duty and the dependents of such members.

10 (17) 412TH MEDICAL GROUP, EDWARDS AIR  
11 FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA.—With respect to the  
12 412th Medical Group, Edwards Air Force Base,  
13 California, limiting access to the military medical  
14 treatment facility only to members of the Armed  
15 Forces serving on active duty and the dependents of  
16 such members.

17 (18) 30TH MEDICAL GROUP, VANDENBERG  
18 SPACE FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA.—With respect to  
19 the 30th Medical Group, Vandenberg Space Force  
20 Base, California, limiting access to the military med-  
21 ical treatment facility only to members of the Armed  
22 Forces serving on active duty and the dependents of  
23 such members.

24 (19) NAVAL HEALTH CLINIC CORPUS CHRISTI,  
25 TEXAS.—With respect to Naval Health Clinic Cor-

1       pus Christi, Texas, limiting access to the military  
2       medical treatment facility only to members of the  
3       Armed Forces serving on active duty and the de-  
4       pendents of such members.

5           (20) 23D MEDICAL GROUP, MOODY AIR FORCE  
6       BASE, GEORGIA.—With respect to the 23d Medical  
7       Group, Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, limiting ac-  
8       cess to the military medical treatment facility only  
9       to members of the Armed Forces serving on active  
10      duty and the dependents of such members living on  
11      base.

12          (21) 366TH MEDICAL GROUP, MOUNTAIN HOME  
13      AIR FORCE BASE, IDAHO.—With respect to the  
14      366th Medical Group, Mountain Home Air Force  
15      Base, Idaho, limiting access to the military medical  
16      treatment facility only to members of the Armed  
17      Forces serving on active duty and the dependents of  
18      such members living on base.

19          (22) 319TH MEDICAL GROUP, GRAND FORKS  
20      AIR FORCE BASE, NORTH DAKOTA.—With respect to  
21      the 319th Medical Group, Grand Forks Air Force  
22      Base, North Dakota, limiting access to the military  
23      medical treatment facility only to members of the  
24      Armed Forces serving on active duty and the de-  
25      pendents of such members living on base.

1           (23) 61ST MEDICAL SQUADRON, LOS ANGELES  
2           SPACE FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA.—With respect to  
3           the 61st Medical Squadron, Los Angeles Space  
4           Force Base, California, limiting access to the mili-  
5           tary medical treatment facility only to members of  
6           the Armed Forces serving on active duty and the de-  
7           pendents of such members living on base.

8           (24) 78TH MEDICAL GROUP, ROBINS AIR FORCE  
9           BASE, GEORGIA.—With respect to the 78th Medical  
10          Group, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, limiting ac-  
11          cess to the military medical treatment facility only  
12          to members of the Armed Forces serving on active  
13          duty.

14          (25) 72D MEDICAL GROUP, TINKER AIR FORCE  
15          BASE, OKLAHOMA.—With respect to the 72d Medical  
16          Group, Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, limiting  
17          access to the military medical treatment facility only  
18          to members of the Armed Forces serving on active  
19          duty.

20          (26) 75TH MEDICAL GROUP, HILL AIR FORCE  
21          BASE, UTAH.—With respect to the 75th Medical  
22          Group, Hill Air Force Base, Utah, limiting access to  
23          the military medical treatment facility only to mem-  
24          bers of the Armed Forces serving on active duty.

1           (27) 66TH MEDICAL SQUADRON, HANSCOM AIR  
2           FORCE BASE, MASSACHUSETTS.—With respect to the  
3           66th Medical Squadron, Hanscom Air Force Base,  
4           Massachusetts, limiting access to the military med-  
5           ical treatment facility only to members of the Armed  
6           Forces serving on active duty.

7           (28) DAVID GRANT MEDICAL CENTER, TRAVIS  
8           AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA.—With respect to the  
9           David Grant Medical Center, Travis Air Force Base,  
10          California, closing the labor and delivery services.

11          (29) 42D MEDICAL GROUP, MAXWELL AIR  
12          FORCE BASE, ALABAMA.—With respect to the 42d  
13          Medical Group, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama,  
14          discontinuing educational and developmental inter-  
15          vention services.

16          (30) VILSECK ARMY HEALTH CLINIC, GER-  
17          MANY.—With respect to the Vilseck Army Health  
18          Clinic, Germany, discontinuing physical medicine  
19          and rehabilitation services.

20          (31) DESERT SAGE COMMUNITY BASED MED-  
21          ICAL HOME, WILLIAM BEAUMONT ARMY MEDICAL  
22          CENTER, FORT BLISS, TEXAS.—With respect to the  
23          Desert Sage Community Based Medical Home, Wil-  
24          liam Beaumont Army Medical Center, Fort Bliss,  
25          Texas, closing such home.

1           (32) NAVAL HEALTH CLINIC PATUXENT RIVER,  
2           BRANCH HEALTH CLINIC DAHLGREN, VIRGINIA.—  
3           With respect to Naval Health Clinic Patuxent River,  
4           Branch Health Clinic Dahlgren, Virginia, dis-  
5           continuing radiology services.

6           (33) ARMY HEALTH CLINIC MUNSON, FORT  
7           LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS.—With respect to Army  
8           Health Clinic Munson, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas,  
9           discontinuing mammography services.

10          (34) NAVAL HEALTH CLINIC LEMOORE, CALI-  
11          FORNIA.—With respect to Naval Health Clinic  
12          Lemoore, California, discontinuing operating room  
13          services.

14          (35) 55TH MEDICAL GROUP, OFFUTT AIR  
15          FORCE BASE, NEBRASKA.—With respect to the 55th  
16          Medical Group, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska—

17                 (A) discontinuing contracts for nutrition  
18                 services; and

19                 (B) discontinuing contracts for chiropractic  
20                 services.

21          (36) 7TH MEDICAL GROUP, DYESS AIR FORCE  
22          BASE, TEXAS.—With respect to the 7th Medical  
23          Group, Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, discontinuing  
24          contracts for nutrition services.

1           (37) 2D MEDICAL GROUP, BARKSDALE AIR  
2           FORCE BASE, LOUISIANA.—With respect to the 2d  
3           Medical Group, Barksdale Air Force Base, Lou-  
4           isiana—

5           (A) discontinuing contracts for nutrition  
6           services; and

7           (B) discontinuing contracts for chiropractic  
8           services.

9           (38) 87TH MEDICAL GROUP, JOINT BASE  
10          MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, NEW JERSEY.—With re-  
11          spect to the 87th Medical Group, Joint Base  
12          McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey—

13          (A) discontinuing contracts for nutrition  
14          services; and

15          (B) discontinuing contracts for chiropractic  
16          services.

17          (39) 1ST SPECIAL OPERATIONS MEDICAL  
18          GROUP, HURLBURT FIELD, FLORIDA.—With respect  
19          to 1st Special Operations Medical Group, Hurlburt  
20          Field, Florida, discontinuing contracts for chiro-  
21          practic services.

22          (40) 10TH MEDICAL GROUP, UNITED STATES  
23          AIR FORCE ACADEMY, COLORADO.—With respect to  
24          10th Medical Group, United States Air Force Acad-

1       emy, Colorado, discontinuing contracts for chiro-  
2       practic services.

3               (41) 96TH MEDICAL GROUP, EGLIN AIR FORCE  
4       BASE, FLORIDA.—With respect to 96th Medical  
5       Group, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, discontinuing  
6       contracts for chiropractic services.

7       (d) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date  
8       of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit  
9       to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of  
10      Representatives and the Senate a report on each action  
11      taken under subsection (b).

12      (e) SERVICE CHANGE DEFINED.—The term “service  
13      change” means, with respect to a military medical treat-  
14      ment facility, an action by the Secretary of Defense to  
15      modify the scope of medical care provided at the facility,  
16      or the beneficiary population served at the facility, as de-  
17      scribed in section 1073d(f) of title 10, United States Code,  
18      including with respect to reducing or transferring per-  
19      sonnel, converting an inpatient hospital to an outpatient  
20      ambulatory care center, and restricting the type of bene-  
21      ficiary that can access the facility.

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

3   **SEC. 711.[Log 85574] IMPROVEMENTS TO DEFENSE HEALTH**  
4                   **AGENCY.**

5           (a) ADMINISTRATION OF MILITARY MEDICAL TREAT-  
6   MENT FACILITIES.—Subsection (b) of section 1073c of  
7   title 10, United States Code, is amended—

8           (1) in paragraph (1)—

9                   (A) in subparagraph (H), by striking “;  
10                   and” and inserting a semicolon;

11                   (B) by redesignating subparagraph (I) as  
12                   subparagraph (J); and

13                   (C) by inserting after subparagraph (H)  
14                   the following new subparagraph (I):

15                   “(I) civilian personnel; and”; and

16           (2) in paragraph (2)—

17                   (A) by striking subparagraph (C) and in-  
18                   serting the following new subparagraph:

19                   “(C) to determine, in coordination with the sen-  
20                   ior military operational commander of each military  
21                   installation with a military medical treatment facil-  
22                   ity, the scope of medical care provided at each such  
23                   facility to meet—

24                           “(i) the military personnel readiness re-  
25                           quirements of such commander; and

1           “(ii) the health care requirements of mem-  
2           bers of the armed forces and covered bene-  
3           ficiaries, as determined by such commander;”;

4           (B) in subparagraph (D), by striking “or  
5           the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health  
6           Affairs”;

7           (C) in subparagraph (F), by striking “joint  
8           manning” and inserting “ uniformed, joint, ci-  
9           vilian, and contractor manning”;

10          (D) by striking subparagraph (G);

11          (E) by redesignating subparagraphs (H)  
12          and (I) as subparagraphs (G) and (H), respec-  
13          tively; and

14          (F) in subparagraph (G), as so redesign-  
15          ated, by inserting “civilian and contractor”  
16          after “address”.

17          (b) ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.—Subsection (c)(1)(A) of  
18          such section is amended by inserting “or an officer of the  
19          armed forces” before the semicolon.

20          (c) DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR FINANCIAL  
21          OPERATIONS.—Subparagraph (B) of subsection (d)(2) of  
22          such section is amended to read as follows:

23           “(B) The Deputy Assistant Director for Financial  
24          Operations shall be responsible for the policy, procedures,

1 and direction of budgeting matters and financial manage-  
2 ment with respect to the following:

3 “(i) The provision of direct care at military  
4 medical treatment facilities.

5 “(ii) The TRICARE program.

6 “(iii) Certain medical readiness activities and  
7 expeditionary medical capabilities (as determined by  
8 the commanders of the combatant commands, in  
9 consultation with the Surgeons General of the armed  
10 forces and the Joint Staff Surgeon).

11 “(iv) Education and training programs.

12 “(v) Research, development, test, and evalua-  
13 tion.

14 “(vi) Management and headquarters activities.

15 “(vii) Facilities sustainment.

16 “(viii) Procurement.

17 “(ix) Civilian and contractor personnel.”.

18 (d) CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTOR.—

19 Subsection (e)(2) of such section is amended—

20 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

21 (A) by striking “Ensuring that” and in-  
22 sserting “Coordinating with the commanders of  
23 the combatant commands to ensure”; and

1 (B) by striking “the commanders of the  
2 combatant commands.” and inserting “such  
3 commanders.”; and

4 (2) in subparagraph (C)—

5 (A) by striking “Ensuring that” and in-  
6 serting “Coordinating with the senior military  
7 operational commander of each military instal-  
8 lation with a military medical treatment facility  
9 to ensure”; and

10 (B) by striking “the senior military oper-  
11 ational commanders of the military installa-  
12 tions.” and inserting “such commanders.”.

13 (e) CONSULTATIONS ON THE MILITARY HEALTH  
14 SYSTEM BUDGET.—Subsection (h) of such section is  
15 amended—

16 (1) in the heading, by striking “MEDICAL RE-  
17 SEARCH OF MILITARY DEPARTMENTS” and inserting  
18 “CERTAIN MATTERS”;

19 (2) by striking “In establishing” and inserting  
20 “(1) In establishing”; and

21 (3) by adding at the end the following new  
22 paragraph:

23 “(2) On a basis that is not less frequent than semi-  
24 annually, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with  
25 the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readi-

1 ness, shall carry out recurring consultations with each  
2 military department and the Surgeons General of each  
3 armed force regarding the budgetary requirements for  
4 each military department, including with respect to each  
5 matter specified in subsection (d)(2)(B).”.

6 (f) DEFINITION OF HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRA-  
7 TION.—Subsection (k) of such section is amended by add-  
8 ing at the end the following:

9 “(4) The term ‘health care administration’  
10 means the administration and management of the  
11 following:

12 “(A) Health information technology.

13 “(B) Pharmacy operations.

14 “(C) Medical logistics.

15 “(D) Facility planning.

16 “(E) The health plan options of the  
17 TRICARE program.”.

18 (g) SUBMISSION OF ORGANIZATIONAL CHART.—Not  
19 later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this  
20 Act, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs  
21 shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the  
22 House of Representatives and the Senate an organiza-  
23 tional chart of the Defense Health Agency, including an  
24 analysis of how the organization of the Defense Health

- 1 Agency meets the requirements of section 1073e of title
- 2 10, United States Code.

1 **SEC. 712.[Log 85577] IMPROVEMENTS TO ADMINISTRATION**  
2 **OF MILITARY MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILI-**  
3 **TIES.**

4 (a) SUPPORT PROVIDED BY MTFs.—Subsection (a)  
5 of section 1073d of title 10, United States Code, is amend-  
6 ed by striking “and the readiness of medical personnel,”  
7 and inserting “, the readiness of medical personnel, and  
8 the health care services available for covered bene-  
9 ficiaries,”.

10 (b) MEDICAL CENTERS.—Subsection (b) of such sec-  
11 tion is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “that support  
13 medical readiness”;

14 (2) in paragraph (4)(C)(ii), by striking “im-  
15 proving” and inserting “ensuring”; and

16 (3) in paragraph (5)(C)(ii)—

17 (A) by striking “may” and inserting  
18 “shall”; and

19 (B) by inserting “or contractors” after “ci-  
20 vilian employees”.

21 (c) HOSPITALS.—Subsection (c) of such section is  
22 amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (2)—

24 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “;  
25 and” and inserting a semicolon;

1 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as  
2 subparagraph (C); and

3 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (A)  
4 the following new subparagraph:

5 “(B) inpatient and outpatient health services  
6 with limited speciality care to provide medical care  
7 to all eligible beneficiaries; and”;

8 (2) in paragraph (3)—

9 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)  
10 and (B) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respec-  
11 tively; and

12 (B) by inserting before subparagraph (B),  
13 as so redesignated, the following new subpara-  
14 graph:

15 “(A) is necessary for medical readiness;”.

16 (d) AMBULATORY CARE CENTERS.—Subsection  
17 (d)(3) of such section is amended—

18 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and  
19 (B) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively; and

20 (2) by inserting before subparagraph (B), as so  
21 redesignated, the following new subparagraph:

22 “(A) is necessary for medical readiness;”.

23 (e) MAINTENANCE OF INPATIENT CAPABILITIES AT  
24 MILITARY MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITIES LOCATED

1 OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Subsection (e)(2) of  
2 such section is amended—

3 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),  
4 by striking “180 days” and inserting “one year”;  
5 and

6 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as sub-  
7 paragraph (D);

8 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the fol-  
9 lowing new subparagraph:

10 “(C) The Secretary has consulted with the rel-  
11 evant operational commander or installation com-  
12 mander, as appropriate, to ensure that the proposed  
13 elimination would have no impact on access by eligi-  
14 ble beneficiaries to health care.”; and

15 (4) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated, by  
16 striking “Before” and inserting “At least one year  
17 before”.

18 (f) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED TO MODIFY SCOPE OF  
19 SERVICES PROVIDED AT MILITARY MEDICAL TREATMENT  
20 FACILITIES.—Subsection (f) of such section is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “180  
22 days” and inserting “one year”; and

23 (2) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the  
24 following new subparagraph:

1           “(D) An analysis of the capability of the local  
2           community to absorb patients and the anticipated  
3           cost to the managed care support contract.”.

1 **SEC. 713.[Log 85573] DESIGNATION OF DEFENSE HEALTH**  
2 **AGENCY AS COMBAT SUPPORT AGENCY.**

3 Section 193(f) of title 10, United States Code, is  
4 amended—

5 (1) by redesignating paragraph (5) as para-  
6 graph (6); and

7 (2) by inserting after paragraph (4) the fol-  
8 lowing new paragraph:

9 “(5) The Defense Health Agency.”.

1 **SEC. 715.[Log 85544] AVAILABILITY OF COMBAT AND OPER-**  
2 **ATIONAL MEDICINE PROGRAM ACCOUNT AND**  
3 **OTHER FUNDS FOR CERTAIN MEDICAL COUN-**  
4 **TERMEASURES.**

5 (a) AVAILABILITY.—Chapter 55 of title 10, United  
6 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1100  
7 the following new section:

8 **“§ 1100a. Availability of Combat and Operational**  
9 **Medicine Program Account and other**  
10 **funds for certain medical counter-**  
11 **measures**

12 “(a) AUTHORITY.—Subject to the availability of ap-  
13 propriations for such purpose, amounts available under  
14 the Combat and Operational Medicine Program Account  
15 established under section 1100 of this title, and amounts  
16 available under the Operation and Maintenance, Army, ac-  
17 count for medical readiness, may be obligated or expended  
18 by the Director of the Defense Health Agency to conduct  
19 the activities described in subsection (b) for the protection  
20 and sustainment of deployed forces across the roles of  
21 medical care.

22 “(b) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—The activities de-  
23 scribed in this subsection are the following:

24 “(1) The procurement or pre-positioning of a  
25 medical countermeasure for forward deployment.

1           “(2) The forward deployment of a medical  
2 countermeasure.

3           “(3) Any associated logistics, storage, or  
4 sustainment activity necessary to ensure the avail-  
5 ability or readiness of a forward-deployed medical  
6 countermeasure.

7           “(c) COORDINATION.—The Director of the Defense  
8 Health Agency shall coordinate with the Secretaries of the  
9 military departments and the commanders of the combat-  
10 ant commands with respect to any obligation or expendi-  
11 ture of funds under subsection (a).

12          “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13           “(1) The term ‘medical countermeasure’ in-  
14 cludes—

15           “(A) a vaccine, therapeutic, prophylactic,  
16 or diagnostic; and

17           “(B) an advanced wound care product, in-  
18 cluding antimicrobial and barrier-protective  
19 dressings, such as silver-plated bandages.

20           “(2) The term ‘roles of medical care’ has the  
21 meaning given such term in the publication of the  
22 Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff titled ‘Joint  
23 Publication 4-02: Joint Health Service’, dated De-  
24 cember 11, 2017, or such successor publication.”.

1           (b) REPORTS.—Not later than 120 days after the  
2 date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter  
3 for three years, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to  
4 the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Rep-  
5 resentatives and the Senate a report describing—

6           (1) the categories of medical countermeasures  
7           procured and forward-deployed using funds author-  
8           ized to be obligated or expended under section 1100a  
9           of title 10, United States Code, as added by sub-  
10          section (a);

11          (2) the locations supported by any such use of  
12          funds; and

13          (3) any gaps or shortfalls identified in connec-  
14          tion with the provision of such medical counter-  
15          measures to deployed forces.

1 **SEC. 716.[Log 85734] INCLUSION OF DEFENSE HEALTH**  
2 **AGENCY IN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS RE-**  
3 **LATING TO UNFUNDED PRIORITIES.**

4 Section 222a of title 10, United States Code, is  
5 amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “the armed  
7 force or forces or combatant command” and insert-  
8 ing “the armed force or forces, combatant command,  
9 or combat support agency”; and

10 (2) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the  
11 following new paragraph:

12 “(8) The Director of the Defense Health Agen-  
13 cy.”.

1 **SEC. 717.[Log 85138] CLARIFICATION OF CONSISTENT EVAL-**  
2 **UATIONS OF MEDICAL MALPRACTICE**  
3 **CLAIMS.**

4 (a) UNIFORM EVALUATIONS.—Section  
5 2733a(h)(2)(B) of title 10, United States Code, is amend-  
6 ed—

7 (1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by insert-  
8 ing “applicable to each uniformed service” before  
9 “consistent with generally”; and

10 (2) in clause (iv), by inserting “consistent cri-  
11 teria used in the” before “calculation”.

12 (b) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by sub-  
13 section (a) shall apply with respect to claims filed under  
14 section 2733a of title 10, United States Code, on or after  
15 the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment  
16 of this Act.

1 **SEC. 718.[Log 85535] MODIFICATION TO QUALIFICATION**  
2 **WAIVER AUTHORITY FOR APPLICANTS FOR**  
3 **NURSING OR PRACTICAL NURSE POSITIONS**  
4 **IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**

5 Section 716(a) of the Servicemember Quality of Life  
6 Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for  
7 Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118–159; 10 U.S.C. 1073c  
8 note), is amended by striking “who—” and all that follows  
9 through the period at the end and inserting “who holds  
10 a bachelor’s degree or graduate degree from an accredited  
11 professional nursing educational program and a current,  
12 unrestricted license to practice as a registered nurse or  
13 practical nurse.”.

1 **SEC. 719.[Log 85034] NOTIFICATION TO TRICARE BENE-**  
2 **FICIARIES OF COVERAGE TRANSITION RE-**  
3 **QUIREMENTS.**

4 Chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, is amend-  
5 ed by inserting after section 1097d the following:

6 **“SEC. 1097e. TRICARE PROGRAM: NOTICE OF COVERAGE**  
7 **TRANSITION REQUIREMENTS.**

8 “(a) PROVISION OF NOTICE.—(1) The administering  
9 Secretaries shall provide each covered beneficiary with no-  
10 tices of a TRICARE coverage transition requirement that  
11 affects the individual.

12 “(2) The administering Secretaries shall provide no-  
13 tice under paragraph (1) through electronic means.

14 “(b) TIMING OF NOTICE.—The administering Secre-  
15 taries shall provide notices to a covered beneficiary under  
16 subsection (a)(1) as follows:

17 “(1) On the date that is one year before the  
18 covered beneficiary will experience a TRICARE cov-  
19 erage transition requirement.

20 “(2) On the date that is 180 days before the  
21 covered beneficiary will experience a TRICARE cov-  
22 erage transition requirement.

23 “(3) On the date that is 30 days before the cov-  
24 ered beneficiary will experience a TRICARE cov-  
25 erage transition requirement.

1           “(c) OUTREACH.—The administering Secretaries  
2 shall conduct an outreach and public awareness campaign  
3 to inform covered beneficiaries of TRICARE coverage  
4 transition requirements, including through the TRICARE  
5 internet website, social media, and through family readi-  
6 ness groups.

7           “(d) REPORTS.—On an annual basis the Secretary  
8 of Defense, in consultation with the other administering  
9 Secretaries, shall submit to the appropriate congressional  
10 committees a report on the implementation of this section,  
11 including metrics relating to the outreach and public  
12 awareness campaign under subsection (c) and any rec-  
13 ommendations to improve making covered beneficiaries  
14 aware of TRICARE coverage transition requirements.

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

16                   “(1) The term ‘appropriate congressional com-  
17 mittees’ means the following:

18                           “(A) The congressional defense commit-  
19 tees.

20                           “(B) With respect to matters concerning  
21 members and former members of the Coast  
22 Guard and dependents of such members and  
23 former members, the Committee on Transpor-  
24 tation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-

1           representatives and the Committee on Commerce,  
2           Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

3           “(2) The term ‘TRICARE coverage transition  
4           requirement’ means a requirement under this chap-  
5           ter for a covered beneficiary to make a different  
6           election under the TRICARE program to continue  
7           enrollment in the TRICARE program, including by  
8           reason of attaining a certain age as described in sec-  
9           tion 1086(d) or 1110b of this title.”.

1 **SEC. 720.[Log 85137] AERIAL TRANSPORT AND DEPART-**  
2 **MENT-WIDE CAPABILITY FOR HIGH-CON-**  
3 **SEQUENCE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

4 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Beginning not later than Octo-  
5 ber 1, 2027, the Secretary of the Air Force, in coordina-  
6 tion with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health  
7 Affairs, the Secretaries of the other military departments,  
8 and the Director of the Defense Health Agency, shall  
9 carry out a program to provide for the safe, long-range  
10 aerial transport of individuals known to be or suspected  
11 of infection by high-consequence infectious diseases.

12 (b) AERIAL TRANSPORT COMPONENT.—The Sec-  
13 retary of Defense shall ensure that the program under  
14 subsection (a) serves as the component of the Department  
15 of Defense that—

16 (1) provides the Department with aerial trans-  
17 port of patients with high-consequence infectious dis-  
18 eases; and

19 (2) provides support to other departments and  
20 agencies of the Federal Government, State and local  
21 governments, and civilian and academic partners, as  
22 determined appropriate by the Secretary.

23 (c) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the  
24 program under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Air  
25 Force shall—

1           (1) develop and maintain a curriculum, and  
2           identify qualified instructors to train and certify  
3           military and civilian medical personnel, on proce-  
4           dures associated with the safe, long-range aerial  
5           transport of patients with high-consequence infec-  
6           tious diseases;

7           (2) establish, and periodically update, medical  
8           care standards, infection prevention and control  
9           measures, and operational safety protocols necessary  
10          to maximize patient survival and minimize infection  
11          risk to aircrew, medical personnel, and support per-  
12          sonnel;

13          (3) serve as the joint force advocate and execu-  
14          tive agent within the Department of Defense for aer-  
15          ial transport of individuals with high-consequence in-  
16          fectious diseases;

17          (4) establish standards, sustainment require-  
18          ments, and lifecycle management processes for per-  
19          sonal protective equipment, transport isolation sys-  
20          tems, and associated medical equipment used in  
21          transporting infected patients;

22          (5) develop, in coordination with the Joint  
23          Staff, joint doctrine, concepts of operation, and med-  
24          ical force requirements necessary to support a De-  
25          partment of Defense-wide high-consequence infec-

1       tious disease capability, including patient movement,  
2       definitive care, and integration across the continuum  
3       of care;

4               (6) coordinate with the other Secretaries of the  
5       military departments and the Director of the De-  
6       fense Health Agency to inform the organization,  
7       training, and equipping of specialized, organized  
8       teams capable of conducting high-consequence infec-  
9       tious disease patient movement and care in oper-  
10      ational, austere, and strategic environments;

11              (7) support interoperability and operational in-  
12      tegration with other departments and agencies of the  
13      Federal Government, State and local governments,  
14      and civilian and academic partners to enable coordi-  
15      nated response to tactical incidents, large-scale con-  
16      tingencies, and research activities related to emerg-  
17      ing and future infectious disease threats; and

18              (8) identify capability gaps and support re-  
19      search, development, testing, and evaluation of med-  
20      ical countermeasures, transport systems, protective  
21      equipment, and operational procedures necessary to  
22      improve survivability, safety, and mission effective-  
23      ness in high-consequence infectious disease oper-  
24      ations.

1           (d) ENTERPRISE DOCTRINE AND OVERSIGHT.—The  
2 Secretary of Defense shall develop and maintain Depart-  
3 ment of Defense-wide doctrine and policy to guide the de-  
4 velopment, fielding, sustainment, and employment of high-  
5 consequence infectious disease response capabilities across  
6 the Department.

1 **SEC. 721.[Log 85234] PILOT PROGRAM ON FILLING PRI-**  
2 **MARY CARE MANAGEMENT POSITIONS AT RE-**  
3 **MOTE MILITARY MEDICAL TREATMENT FA-**  
4 **CILITIES.**

5 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—Beginning not later than 180  
6 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, each Sec-  
7 retary of a military department shall carry out a pilot pro-  
8 gram under which the Secretary may—

9 (1) appoint individuals to primary care manage-  
10 ment positions at a remote military medical treat-  
11 ment facility selected under subsection (d); and

12 (2) provide incentives for highly qualified appli-  
13 cants to such positions.

14 (b) DURATION.—Each Secretary of a military depart-  
15 ment shall carry out the pilot program under subsection  
16 (a) for a period not to exceed five years.

17 (c) PERSONNEL AUTHORITIES.—In carrying out sub-  
18 section (a), for the purposes of hiring qualified candidates  
19 for the pilot program, each Secretary of a military depart-  
20 ment may use the authorities provided under—

21 (1) section 1599c of title 10, United States  
22 Code (relating to appointment and rates of pay);

23 (2) section 5379 of title 5, United States Code  
24 (relating to student loan repayments); and

1           (3) sections 5753 and 5754 of such title 5 (re-  
2 relating to recruitment and relocation bonuses and re-  
3 tention bonuses, respectively).

4           (d) REMOTE MILITARY MEDICAL TREATMENT FA-  
5 CILITIES.—

6           (1) SELECTION.—Not later than 60 days after  
7 the date of the enactment of this Act, each Secretary  
8 of a military department shall select not fewer than  
9 five remote military medical treatment facilities at  
10 which to carry out the pilot program under sub-  
11 section (a).

12           (2) NOTIFICATION.—Each Secretary of a mili-  
13 tary department shall notify the Committees on  
14 Armed Services of the House of Representatives and  
15 the Senate of each remote military medical treat-  
16 ment facility selected under paragraph (1).

17           (e) REIMBURSEMENT.—

18           (1) REQUIREMENT.—Subject to the availability  
19 of appropriations, the Director of the Defense  
20 Health Agency shall reimburse the relevant Sec-  
21 retary of a military department for the actual, rea-  
22 sonable, and allocable cost of the salary and ex-  
23 penses (including with respect to travel, training,  
24 equipment, and facility support) of any individual  
25 appointed to a primary care management position

1 under the pilot program under subsection (a) during  
2 the period in which the employee is employed in the  
3 position for which the employee was so appointed  
4 (regardless of whether such period exceeds the dura-  
5 tion of the pilot program). The Director and the  
6 Secretary shall ensure that such costs are tracked  
7 using a detailed work breakdown structure to ensure  
8 granular tracking and financial accountability.

9 (2) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The  
10 Director and each Secretary of a military depart-  
11 ment shall enter into a memorandum of under-  
12 standing to carry out reimbursements under para-  
13 graph (1). Such memorandum shall specify—

14 (A) the scope of services provided by the  
15 individuals appointed to a primary care man-  
16 agement position;

17 (B) the allowable cost categories;

18 (C) billing and accounting procedures;

19 (D) quality and performance metrics; and

20 (E) dispute resolution procedures.

21 (f) REPORTS.—Not later than 18 months after the  
22 date on which each Secretary of a military department  
23 commences the pilot program under subsection (a), and  
24 annually thereafter during the life of the pilot program,  
25 the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed

1 Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate  
2 a report on the pilot program, including with respect to  
3 the feasibility of carrying out the pilot program on a long-  
4 term basis.

5 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) The term “primary care management posi-  
7 tion” means a physician, nurse practitioner, physi-  
8 cian assistant, registered nurse, mental health nurse  
9 practitioner, licensed practical nurse, or medical as-  
10 sistant.

11 (2) The term “remote military medical treat-  
12 ment facility” means a military medical treatment  
13 facility (as defined in section 1073c of title 10,  
14 United States Code) for which medical personnel as-  
15 signed to the facility may reside at a location that  
16 is either—

17 (A) not more than 50 miles from the mili-  
18 tary medical facility; or

19 (B) a distance that on average takes at  
20 least one hour to travel by car.

1 **SEC. 722. [Log 85233] PLANS ON MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM.**

2 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Section 1073b of title 10,  
3 United States Code, is amended—

4 (1) in the heading, by inserting “**plans and**”  
5 before “**REPORTS**”;

6 (2) by redesignating subsections (a) and (b) as  
7 subsections (b) and (c), respectively; and

8 (3) by inserting before subsection (b), as so re-  
9 designated, the following new subsection:

10 “(a) LONG-TERM PLANS.—(1) During each year, the  
11 Secretary shall develop a long-term plan on the stabiliza-  
12 tion of health care delivered through the Defense Health  
13 Agency.

14 “(2) Each plan under paragraph (1) shall include in-  
15 formation regarding the following with respect to each  
16 military medical treatment facility:

17 “(A) Milestones necessary to implement the  
18 plan.

19 “(B) Definable goals for personnel, budget,  
20 supplies, and readiness.

21 “(C) Cost estimates for personnel, supplies, and  
22 other items necessary to manage and operate the  
23 military medical treatment facility.

24 “(D) The number of current (as of the time of  
25 the plan) and the projection of vacancies with re-  
26 spect to—

1 “(i) military medical personnel;

2 “(ii) civilian and contractor medical per-  
3 sonnel; and

4 “(iii) health care administration personnel.

5 “(E) Projected modifications of the scope of  
6 medical care provided at military medical treatment  
7 facilities.

8 “(F) Budget requirements.

9 “(3) Each plan under paragraph (1) shall cover the  
10 same period covered by the future-years defense program  
11 submitted under section 221 of this title during the year  
12 in which the plan is developed.

13 “(4)(A) On a quarterly basis, the Secretary shall pro-  
14 vide to the Committees on Armed Services of the House  
15 of Representatives and the Senate a briefing on the most  
16 recent plan under paragraph (1).

17 “(B) Any information included in a briefing under  
18 subparagraph (A) with respect to a projected modification  
19 of the scope of medical care provided at a military medical  
20 treatment facility may not be treated as a notification  
21 under section 1073d(f) of this title.

22 “(5) The Secretary shall submit to the Committees  
23 on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and  
24 the Senate each plan under paragraph (1).”.

1 (b) LIMITATION ON MODIFICATIONS OF SCOPE OF  
2 MEDICAL CARE.—Section 1073d(f)(1) of title 10, United  
3 States Code, is amended—

4 (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “; and”  
5 and inserting a semicolon;

6 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period  
7 and inserting “; and”; and

8 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
9 paragraph:

10 “(D) the Secretary has developed the long-term  
11 plan under section 1073b(a) of this title during the  
12 year in which the Secretary submits such notifica-  
13 tion.”.

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

3     **SEC. 731.[Log 85585]. QUARTERLY BRIEFING ON MILITARY**  
4                   **TREATMENT FACILITIES.**

5           (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1073c of title 10, United  
6 States Code, [as amended by section 711 / log 85574],  
7 is further amended—

8               (1) by redesignating subsection (k) as sub-  
9               section (l); and

10              (2) by inserting after subsection (j) the fol-  
11              lowing new subsection:

12              “(k) QUARTERLY BRIEFING ON MILITARY MEDICAL  
13 TREATMENT FACILITIES.—(1) Not less frequently than  
14 once every 90 days, the Assistant Secretary of Defense  
15 for Health Affairs shall provide to the Committees on  
16 Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the  
17 Senate a briefing on military medical treatment facilities.

18              “(2) Each briefing under paragraph (1) shall include,  
19 for each military medical treatment facility and with re-  
20 spect to the 90-day period preceding the date of the provi-  
21 sion of the briefing, the following information:

22                   “(A) Of the members of the armed forces and  
23                   covered beneficiaries who received health care serv-  
24                   ices at the military medical treatment facility during

1 such period, the percentage for whom access stand-  
2 ards were met.

3 “(B) An assessment of the clinical readiness of  
4 the members of the armed forces staffing the mili-  
5 tary medical treatment facility.

6 “(C) An assessment of the unit readiness of  
7 members of the armed forces who receive health care  
8 services at the military medical treatment facility.

9 “(D) The number of members of the armed  
10 forces and covered beneficiaries enrolled in  
11 TRICARE Prime, disaggregated by category of en-  
12 rollee, that received health care services at the mili-  
13 tary medical treatment facility during such period.

14 “(E) The number of members of the armed  
15 forces and covered beneficiaries enrolled in  
16 TRICARE Prime, disaggregated by category of en-  
17 rollee, that received referrals under the TRICARE  
18 program from providers at the military medical  
19 treatment facility to specialty care providers outside  
20 the military medical treatment facility during such  
21 period.

22 “(F) The composition of the workforce at the  
23 military medical treatment facility, including the  
24 number of members of the armed forces, civilian em-

1 employees of the Department of Defense, and contrac-  
2 tors of the Department.

3 “(G) With respect to personnel staffing at the  
4 military medical treatment facility, the following:

5 “(i) The number of unfilled billets,  
6 disaggregated by type of profession, including  
7 clinicians, nurses, hospital administrators, and  
8 administrative personnel.

9 “(ii) The average amount of time for an  
10 unfilled billet to be filled, disaggregated in ac-  
11 cordance with clause (i).

12 “(H) A description of any deficiencies or short-  
13 ages with respect to the budget, medical supplies  
14 and equipment, or personnel necessary to meet  
15 metrics relating to access to healthcare services pro-  
16 vided at the military medical treatment facility and  
17 applicable standards of care relating to such serv-  
18 ices.

19 “(I) A plan to remedy any such deficiencies.”.

20 (b) DEADLINE FOR INITIAL BRIEFING.—Not later  
21 than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this sec-  
22 tion, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs  
23 shall submit the first briefing required under section  
24 1073c(k) of title 10, United States Code, as amended by  
25 subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 733.[Log 85104] MODIFICATIONS TO EVALUATION AND**  
2 **REPORT ON TRICARE PROGRAM EFFECTIVE-**  
3 **NESS.**

4 (a) EVALUATION.—Subsection (a) of section 717 of  
5 the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year  
6 1996 (Public Law 104–106; 10 U.S.C. 1073 note) is  
7 amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “; and” and  
9 inserting a semicolon;

10 (2) in paragraph (3)(B)(v), by striking the pe-  
11 riod and inserting a semicolon; and

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

14 “(4) examine trends with respect to—

15 “(A) the demographics of members of the  
16 Armed Forces and covered beneficiaries;

17 “(B) the use of the TRICARE program by  
18 such members and beneficiaries;

19 “(C) the costs incurred by the Government  
20 relating to such use; and

21 “(D) the satisfaction of such members and  
22 beneficiaries with respect to the TRICARE pro-  
23 gram and other metrics relating to the perform-  
24 ance of the military health system;

1           “(5) compare the trends examined under para-  
2           graph (4) with trends on similar matters experienced  
3           by civilian health care programs;

4           “(6) identify possible determining factors that  
5           could cause changes in the use of the TRICARE  
6           program or the costs incurred by the Government  
7           relating to such use; and

8           “(7) determine the impacts of cost-sharing  
9           amounts under the TRICARE program on members  
10          of the Armed Forces and covered beneficiaries.”.

11         (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—

12           (1) REVIVAL.—Subsection (c) of such section is  
13           amended by striking “March 1, 1997” and inserting  
14           “March 1, 2027”.

15           (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
16           1061(i) of the National Defense Authorization Act  
17           for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 10  
18           U.S.C. 111 note) is amended by striking paragraph

19           (3).

1 **SEC. 734. [Log 85038] EXTENSION OF EXTRAMEDICAL MA-**  
2 **TERNAL HEALTH PROVIDERS DEMONSTRA-**  
3 **TION PROJECT.**

4 Section 746 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry Na-  
5 tional Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021  
6 (Public Law 116–283; 10 U.S.C. 1073 note) is amend-  
7 ed—

8 (1) in subsection (d), by striking “five years”  
9 and inserting “eight years”; and

10 (2) in subsection (f)—

11 (A) in the heading, by inserting “AND  
12 BRIEFING” after “REPORTS”; and

13 (B) by adding at the end the following new  
14 paragraph:

15 “(3) BRIEFING.—Not later than June 30,  
16 2027, the Secretary shall provide to the Committees  
17 on Armed Services of the House of Representatives  
18 and the Senate a briefing on the feasibility of the  
19 Department of Defense hiring doulas to provide  
20 services to members of the Armed Forces and cov-  
21 ered beneficiaries at military medical treatment fa-  
22 cilities that are located in the United States and  
23 such facilities that are located outside the United  
24 States.”.

1 **SEC. 735.[Log 85039] 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 2027; 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 **SEC. 736.[Log 85484] ACCESS TO AUTOMATED EXTERNAL**  
2 **DEFIBRILLATORS DURING MILITARY PHYS-**  
3 **ICAL TRAINING.**

4 (a) ACCESS TO AEDS.—Beginning not later than one  
5 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
6 retary of Defense shall ensure that, for any covered phys-  
7 ical training event, an automated external defibrillator (in  
8 this section referred to as an “AED”) is available and ac-  
9 cessible at a distance that ensures a three-minute response  
10 time calculated under subsection (c).

11 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out subsection (a),  
12 the Secretary shall—

13 (1) require that AEDs be staged at the imme-  
14 diate site of any covered physical training event;

15 (2) ensure that at least one individual present  
16 at covered physical training event site is certified (as  
17 of the date of the event) in the use of an AED and  
18 cardiopulmonary resuscitation (commonly known as  
19 “CPR”); and

20 (3) establish a standardized protocol for regular  
21 quarterly inspections and maintenance of all AED  
22 units to ensure operational readiness.

23 (c) THREE-MINUTE RESPONSE TIME DETERMINA-  
24 TION.—The Secretary shall determine the three-minute  
25 response time under subsection (a) by calculating the total  
26 elapsed time beginning at the recognition of a suspected

1 sudden cardiac arrest and ending at the delivery of the  
2 first defibrillation shock, including all time required for  
3 AED retrieval, transport, and device preparation. In mak-  
4 ing such determinations, the Secretary may presume that  
5 locating an AED within 100 yards of the site of the cov-  
6 ered physical training event will meet such response time.

7 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
8 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit  
9 to the congressional defense committees a report out-  
10 lining—

11 (1) the total number of additional AEDs re-  
12 quired to achieve Department-wide compliance with  
13 this section;

14 (2) the estimated cost of procurement and  
15 maintenance of such AEDs; and

16 (3) a timeline for full implementation across all  
17 military installations to comply with this section.

18 (e) COVERED PHYSICAL TRAINING EVENT DE-  
19 FINED.—In this section, the term “covered physical train-  
20 ing event” means a required unit level physical training  
21 event or high-intensity exercise conducted by the Depart-  
22 ment of Defense.

1 **SEC. 737.[Log 85044] PILOT PROGRAM ON REMOTE BLOOD**  
2 **PRESSURE MONITORING FOR CERTAIN PREG-**  
3 **NANT AND POSTPARTUM TRICARE BENE-**  
4 **FICIARIES.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

6 (1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180 days  
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
8 retary of Defense, acting through the Director of the  
9 Defense Health Agency, shall establish a pilot pro-  
10 gram on blood pressure monitoring for pregnant and  
11 postpartum TRICARE beneficiaries in order to in-  
12 crease the rate of early detection of a hypertensive  
13 disorder of pregnancy.

14 (2) MODEL.—The Secretary may model the  
15 pilot program under paragraph (1) on a pilot pro-  
16 gram for blood pressure self-monitoring under the  
17 Healthy Start Program of the Health Resources and  
18 Services Administration of the Department of  
19 Health and Human Services.

20 (b) MILITARY MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITIES.—

21 (1) NUMBER.—The Secretary shall carry out  
22 the pilot program under subsection (a) at not fewer  
23 than two military medical treatment facilities of each  
24 of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and  
25 Space Force.

1           (2) SELECTION.—In selecting the military med-  
2           ical treatment facilities at which to carry out the  
3           pilot program under subsection (a), the Secretary  
4           shall—

5                   (A) ensure that the military medical treat-  
6                   ment facilities are geographically diverse, in-  
7                   cluding locations in rural and urban areas; and

8                   (B) give priority to military medical treat-  
9                   ment facilities that have a large number of ob-  
10                  stetric patients or a history of maternal health  
11                  programs.

12          (c) PARTICIPANTS.—

13           (1) ELIGIBILITY.—An individual is eligible to  
14           participate in the pilot program under subsection (a)  
15           if—

16                   (A) the individual—

17                           (i) is enrolled in the TRICARE pro-  
18                           gram;

19                           (ii) is pregnant or postpartum; and

20                           (iii) receives health care through a  
21                           military medical treatment facility at which  
22                           the Secretary is carrying out the pilot pro-  
23                           gram; and

24                   (B) the Secretary determines the indi-  
25                  vidual is at risk (based on evidence and current

1           medical standards and recommendations) of a  
2           hypertensive disorder of pregnancy or negative  
3           health outcomes as a result of a hypertensive  
4           disorder of pregnancy.

5           (2) VOLUNTARY.—The Secretary may not re-  
6           quire an individual to participate in the pilot pro-  
7           gram under subsection (a).

8           (d) EQUIPMENT AND INFORMATION.—The Secretary  
9           shall provide to an individual participating in the pilot pro-  
10          gram under subsection (a)—

11           (1) a blood pressure cuff device that—

12                   (A) is approved by the Food and Drug Ad-  
13                   ministration for the digital monitoring of blood  
14                   pressure;

15                   (B) is validated for use during pregnancy  
16                   according to the International Organization for  
17                   Standardization (as determined by the Sec-  
18                   retary);

19                   (C) is capable of remote monitoring and  
20                   data transmission; and

21                   (D) has adjustable or alternative cuff sizes;  
22                   and

23           (2) educational materials and instructions on  
24           the use of such device from a health care provider  
25           of the Department of Defense.

1           (e) PROVIDERS.—In carrying out the pilot program  
2 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall use the primary  
3 care and obstetric care provider of the individual partici-  
4 pating in the pilot program, to the extent practicable.

5           (f) MATERIALS.—The Secretary shall develop sup-  
6 porting materials for health care providers who facilitate  
7 the pilot program under subsection (a), including the fol-  
8 lowing:

9               (1) Guidance on how to identify individuals eli-  
10 gible to participate in the pilot program.

11               (2) Evidence-based educational materials re-  
12 garding maternal health best practices for such indi-  
13 viduals.

14           (g) TERM.—The pilot program under subsection (a)  
15 shall terminate five years after the date on which the Sec-  
16 retary establishes such pilot program.

17           (h) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
18 of the termination of the pilot program, the Secretary  
19 shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the  
20 House of Representatives and the Senate, and make pub-  
21 licly available on the internet website of the Department  
22 of Defense, a report on the pilot program. The report shall  
23 include the following elements, disaggregated by the  
24 Armed Force, sex, age, race, and ethnicity of individuals  
25 who participated in the pilot program:

1 (1) The number of participants.

2 (2) The percentage of such participants who  
3 used the monitors as prescribed.

4 (3) A summary of barriers or challenges partici-  
5 pants experienced using the monitors and if such  
6 barriers or challenges resulted in the monitors being  
7 underused.

8 (4) The percentage of participants who had  
9 blood pressure readings of concern.

10 (5) The percentage of participants described in  
11 paragraph (4) who received medical attention based  
12 on such readings.

13 (6) A summary of provider and participant  
14 feedback, including percentages of—

15 (A) providers that found the program in-  
16 fluenced patient care; and

17 (B) participants who found the program  
18 was helpful in managing the care of the partici-  
19 pant.

20 (7) Recommendations of the Secretary whether  
21 the pilot program should be altered, expanded, or  
22 made permanent.

1 **SEC. 738.[Log 85210] PILOT PROGRAM ON SECURE, MOBILE**  
2 **PERSONAL HEALTH RECORD FOR MEMBERS**  
3 **OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

4 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—Not later than 180 days after  
5 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
6 Defense shall commence a pilot program under which a  
7 member of the Armed Forces serving on active duty may  
8 use a covered health record platform to collect the health  
9 records of the member before separating from active duty.

10 (b) SELECTION OF ARMED FORCE.—The Secretary  
11 shall select not fewer than one Armed Force in which to  
12 carry out the pilot program under subsection (a).

13 (c) CONTRACTS.—

14 (1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall seek to  
15 enter into a contract using competitive procedures  
16 with an appropriate entity for the provision of the  
17 covered health record platform under the pilot pro-  
18 gram under subsection (a).

19 (2) NOTICE OF COMPETITION.—

20 (A) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.—Not later  
21 than 60 days after the date of the enactment of  
22 this Act, the Secretary shall issue a request for  
23 proposals for the contract described in para-  
24 graph (1).

25 (B) OPEN COMPETITION.—A request  
26 under subparagraph (A) shall be full and open

1 to any contractor that has an existing covered  
2 health record platform.

3 (3) SELECTION.—Not later than 120 days after  
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
5 shall award a contract to an appropriate entity pur-  
6 suant to the request for proposals under paragraph  
7 (2) if the Secretary determines that at least one ac-  
8 ceptable offer is submitted.

9 (d) DURATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—

10 (1) PERIOD.—The Secretary shall carry out the  
11 pilot program under subsection (a) for a period of  
12 not less than one year.

13 (2) TERMINATION OR EXTENSION OF PRO-  
14 GRAM.—After carrying out the pilot program under  
15 subsection (a) for a period of 180 days, the Sec-  
16 retary shall survey all participants in the pilot pro-  
17 gram and, based on survey results, may—

18 (A) terminate the pilot program;

19 (B) continue the pilot program;

20 (C) expand the pilot program; or

21 (D) implement the use of a covered health  
22 record platform in the Defense Health Agency  
23 throughout the Armed Forces.

1 (e) PROHIBITION ON NEW APPROPRIATIONS.—No  
2 additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to  
3 carry out the requirements of this section.

4 (f) COVERED HEALTH RECORD PLATFORM DE-  
5 FINED.—In this section, the term “covered health record  
6 platform” means a secure personal health record platform  
7 that meets the following requirements:

8 (1) Has web-based and native mobile phone ap-  
9 plication capabilities.

10 (2) Has the capability to store and share  
11 records with the Department of Veterans Affairs or  
12 any other designated care provider.

13 (3) Has the capability to store records in the  
14 cloud.

15 (4) Does not have a requirement for integration  
16 to receive or share records.

17 (5) Has the capability to instantly share data  
18 based on a combination of access key and personal  
19 identifier.

20 (6) Has the capability to provide secure data  
21 storage and records transfer upon separation of a  
22 member of the Armed Forces from active duty.

23 (7) Does not require a business associate agree-  
24 ment with any parties.

1           (8) Has secure data isolation with access con-  
2           trols.

3           (9) Has, at a minimum, data security that  
4           would require separate encryption for each docu-  
5           ment, relying on AES256 or better algorithm with  
6           keys encryption using RSA2048 or better algorithm,  
7           or any successor similar algorithm.

1 **SEC. 739.[Log 85482] PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FOR**  
2 **THE USE OF BLUE-LIGHT DISSIPATING DIS-**  
3 **PLAYS TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.**

4 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Director of the Defense  
5 Health Agency shall carry out a pilot program under  
6 which the Director provides for the use of blue-light dis-  
7 sipating displays by covered individuals in clinical and re-  
8 habilitative settings.

9 (b) USE OF BLUE-LIGHT DISSIPATING DISPLAYS.—  
10 The Director shall ensure that blue-light dissipating dis-  
11 plays provided under the pilot program under subsection  
12 (a) are used to assist covered individuals with screen-medi-  
13 ated tasks associated with rehabilitation, patient edu-  
14 cation, assistive technology, and telehealth appointments.

15 (c) SELECTION OF TECHNOLOGY.—In carrying out  
16 the pilot program under subsection (a), the Director shall  
17 select commercially available, stand-alone blue-light dis-  
18 sipating displays that do not require modifications to the  
19 electronic health record systems of the military health sys-  
20 tem.

21 (d) LOCATIONS.—The Director shall select military  
22 medical treatment facilities at which to carry out the pilot  
23 program under subsection (a).

24 (e) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the  
25 date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall pro-  
26 vide to the Committees on Armed Services of the House

1 of Representatives and the Senate a briefing on the design  
2 of the pilot program under subsection (a), including identi-  
3 fication of the military medical treatment facilities selected  
4 under subsection (d).

5 (f) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date  
6 of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit  
7 to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of  
8 Representatives and the Senate a report on the pilot pro-  
9 gram under subsection (a), including an evaluation of each  
10 of the following:

11 (1) Whether the use of blue-light dissipating  
12 displays provided under the pilot program changed  
13 the time needed to complete screen-mediated tasks  
14 associated with rehabilitation, patient education, as-  
15 sistive technology, and telehealth appointments.

16 (2) Whether such use improved the ability of  
17 covered individuals to read information relating to  
18 such tasks.

19 (3) Whether such use improved the glare sensi-  
20 tivity and visual fatigue of covered individuals.

21 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) The term “blue-light dissipating display”  
23 means a display technology that is blue-light-dis-  
24 sipating and uses a diffused light-output architec-  
25 ture, including with respect to employing optical-

1 elastomer or diffused light-output nanomaterial  
2 light-management layers (or both).

3 (2) The term “covered individual” means a cov-  
4 ered beneficiary (as defined in section 1072 of title  
5 10, United States Code) who is partially blind, le-  
6 gally blind, or otherwise visually impaired.

1 **SEC. 740.[Log 85058] WORKING GROUP ON DIGITAL STRAT-**  
2 **EGY FOR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—In accordance with the  
4 Warfighter Brain Health Initiative under section 735 of  
5 the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act  
6 for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263; 10 U.S.C.  
7 1071 note), not later than July 1, 2027, the Assistant Sec-  
8 retary of Defense for Health Affairs shall establish a  
9 working group to develop a digital health strategy that  
10 leverages advances in artificial intelligence for the treat-  
11 ment of traumatic brain injuries.

12 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Assistant Secretary shall ap-  
13 point to the working group under subsection (a) members  
14 of the Armed Forces, officers and employees of the De-  
15 partment of Defense, and nongovernmental experts. Such  
16 individuals shall have expertise in clinical care of trau-  
17 matic brain injuries, biomedical informatics, biomedical  
18 engineering, or biomedical implementation science.

19 (c) STRATEGY.—The strategy under subsection (a)  
20 shall include, at a minimum, the following:

21 (1) Identification of capability gaps in treat-  
22 ment of traumatic brain injuries that could be ad-  
23 dressed through artificial intelligence and digital  
24 health technologies.

25 (2) An analysis of existing research, develop-  
26 ment, and acquisition efforts leveraging artificial in-

1 intelligence-based capabilities and digital health, in-  
2 cluding any applicable commercial off-the-shelf solu-  
3 tions being used by the Department of Defense to  
4 support treatment of traumatic brain injuries.

5 (3) Expert recommendations on advances re-  
6 quired to address identified capability gaps and sig-  
7 nificantly improve treatment of traumatic brain inju-  
8 ries using artificial intelligence and digital health  
9 technologies.

10 (4) A recommended investment plan to advance  
11 technology and knowledge readiness levels to field  
12 digital solutions for treating traumatic brain inju-  
13 ries.

14 **SEC. 741.[Log 85024] STUDY ON LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF**  
15 **MILITARY FLIGHT OPERATIONS ON BRAIN**  
16 **HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH.**

17 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct  
18 a comprehensive, longitudinal study to assess the long  
19 term physiological and psychological effects of military  
20 aviation, including with respect to high-performance flight  
21 and G-force exposure, on military aviators.

22 (b) ELEMENTS.—The study under subsection (a)  
23 shall examine, at a minimum—

24 (1) the relationship between cumulative flight  
25 hours and exposure to G-forces and incidents of

1 traumatic brain injury, subconcussive trauma, or  
2 cognitive impairment;

3 (2) long-term mental health outcomes, including  
4 with respect to incidence of depression, anxiety dis-  
5 orders, and post-traumatic stress disorder, in mili-  
6 tary aviators compared to other members of the  
7 Armed Forces;

8 (3) the correlation between aviation-related  
9 physiological stress and suicide risk among aviators;

10 (4) the prevalence of neurodegenerative condi-  
11 tions (including chronic traumatic encephalopathy,  
12 amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and Parkinson's dis-  
13 ease) in current and former military aviators;

14 (5) the effect of helmet design, oxygen systems,  
15 flight suit pressurization, and other cockpit environ-  
16 mental factors on neurocognitive health;

17 (6) current screening and diagnostic procedures  
18 used to detect early signs of neurological injury or  
19 psychological distress in military aviators; and

20 (7) recommended improvements in the moni-  
21 toring, prevention, and treatment of aviation-related  
22 brain trauma and mental health challenges.

23 (c) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under  
24 subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with—

1           (1) the Surgeons General of the military de-  
2           partments;

3           (2) the Director of the Defense Health Agency;

4           (3) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and

5           (4) relevant academic institutions and federally  
6           funded research and development centers with exper-  
7           tise in aviation medicine, neuroscience, and psychi-  
8           atry.

9           (d) PILOT HEALTH REGISTRY.—The Secretary of  
10          Defense shall establish and maintain a centralized Military  
11          Aviator Neurohealth Registry that includes—

12           (1) anonymized health data of military aviators  
13           voluntarily participating in the study under sub-  
14           section (a);

15           (2) flight exposure metrics, including cumu-  
16           lative hours and G-force profiles;

17           (3) relevant health outcomes tracked over time;  
18           and

19           (4) a mechanism for longitudinal follow-up with  
20           the military aviators after retirement or separation  
21           from the Armed Forces.

22          (e) REPORTS.—

23           (1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than one year  
24           after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
25           retary shall submit to the congressional defense com-

1       mittees an interim report on the study under sub-  
2       section (a), including any preliminary findings and  
3       recommendations.

4           (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than three years  
5       after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
6       retary shall submit to the congressional defense com-  
7       mittees report on the study under subsection (a), in-  
8       cluding findings and recommendations.

9           (f) MILITARY AVIATOR DEFINED.—In this section,  
10      the term “military aviator” means a member of the Armed  
11      Forces, including a commissioned officer or a warrant offi-  
12      cer, who—

13           (1) has been designated as a pilot, naval avi-  
14      ator, or aircrew member by the Secretary of the  
15      military department concerned;

16           (2) operates, or is regularly assigned as a flight  
17      crew member aboard, high-performance, crewed,  
18      fixed-wing or rotary-wing aircraft designed for tac-  
19      tical, training, or reconnaissance missions, includ-  
20      ing—

21           (A) fighter aircraft (such as the F–35, F/  
22      A–18, F–22, and F–16 aircraft);

23           (B) attack aircraft (such as the A–10 and  
24      AH–64 aircraft);

- 1 (C) trainer jets (such as the T-7, T-
- 2 38, and T-45 aircraft); and
- 3 (D) tiltrotor or high-speed rotary aircraft
- 4 (such as the V-22 aircraft); and
- 5 (3) is subject to sustained or repeated G-forces
- 6 during the routine execution of flight duties.

1 **SEC. 742.[Log 85383] STUDY ON FEASIBILITY OF ESTAB-**  
2 **LISHING MILITARY MEDICAL TREATMENT FA-**  
3 **CILITY AT HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE BASE.**

4 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Defense, acting  
5 through the Director of the Defense Health Agency, in  
6 coordination with the Secretary of the Air Force, shall  
7 conduct a feasibility study on establishing a military med-  
8 ical treatment facility at Homestead Air Reserve Base,  
9 Florida.

10 (b) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The study under sub-  
11 section (a) shall evaluate the following:

12 (1) The total eligible beneficiary population who  
13 would access a military medical treatment facility at  
14 Homestead Air Reserve Base, including with respect  
15 to members of the Armed Forces (including the re-  
16 serve components thereof) and covered beneficiaries  
17 stationed at such Base or at a different military in-  
18 stallation in the proximity of such Base.

19 (2) The extent to which reliance by such mem-  
20 bers and covered beneficiaries on civilian health care  
21 providers—

22 (A) meets medical readiness and deploy-  
23 ment training requirements;

24 (B) supports or degrades military-unique  
25 clinical skill sustainment; and

1 (C) satisfies adequacy standards under the  
2 TRICARE network.

3 (3) Identified gaps between civilian health care  
4 access and military operational medical readiness re-  
5 quirements.

6 (4) A cost comparison of—

7 (A) a direct care military medical treat-  
8 ment facility model;

9 (B) a hybrid readiness clinic model; and

10 (C) continued purchased care reliance.

11 (5) Opportunities for integration with local ci-  
12 vilian health care systems while preserving military-  
13 unique readiness competencies.

14 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
15 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit  
16 to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of  
17 Representatives and the Senate—

18 (1) the findings of the study under subsection

19 (a);

20 (2) a recommended course of action;

21 (3) estimated cost and manpower requirements;

22 (4) an assessment of medical readiness impacts;

23 and

24 (5) an analysis of the implications to covered  
25 beneficiaries with respect to accessing medical care.

1           (d) COVERED BENEFICIARY DEFINED.—In this sec-  
2 tion, the term “covered beneficiary” has the meaning  
3 given that term in section 1072 of title 10, United States  
4 Code.

1 **SEC. 743.[Log 85481] STUDY ON FEASIBILITY OF ESTAB-**  
2 **LISHING DIGITAL SYSTEM RELATING TO AC-**  
3 **CESS TO CARE AT MILITARY MEDICAL TREAT-**  
4 **MENT FACILITIES.**

5 (a) STUDY.—Not later than 18 months after the date  
6 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense  
7 shall conduct a study to determine the feasibility of estab-  
8 lishing a digital system under which—

9 (1) a covered individual who receives health  
10 care at a military medical treatment facility may  
11 electronically—

12 (A) file a complaint relating to access to  
13 care at such military medical treatment facility;  
14 and

15 (B) view the status of such complaint at  
16 any time, including the status of any interim or  
17 final action taken to address the complaint;

18 (2) any complaint filed under paragraph (1)(A)  
19 is promptly transmitted to an appropriate patient  
20 advocate of the Department of Defense; and

21 (3) complaints filed under paragraph (1)(A)  
22 with respect to a military medical treatment facility  
23 may be automatically aggregated and submitted to  
24 the Director of the Defense Health Agency on a  
25 quarterly basis.

26 (b) REPORT.—

1           (1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than December  
2           1, 2027, the Secretary shall submit to the Commit-  
3           tees on Armed Services of the House of Representa-  
4           tives and the Senate a report on the feasibility of es-  
5           tablishing the digital system described in subsection  
6           (a).

7           (2) ELEMENTS.—The report under paragraph  
8           (1) shall include the following:

9                   (A) An identification of the most common  
10                   complaints relating to access to care filed by  
11                   covered individuals.

12                   (B) A comparison of the number of com-  
13                   plaints regarding access to specialty care versus  
14                   access to primary care.

15                   (C) A comparison of the number of com-  
16                   plaints regarding access to pediatric care versus  
17                   nonpediatric care.

18                   (D) A comparison of the number of com-  
19                   plaints regarding administrative hurdles to ac-  
20                   cess to care versus other issues relating to ac-  
21                   cess to care.

22                   (E) A summary of steps taken to reduce  
23                   complaints relating to access to care.

24           (c) COVERED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this sec-  
25           tion, the term “covered individual” means an individual

1 enrolled in a health care plan under the TRICARE pro-  
2 gram and eligible to receive care at a military medical  
3 treatment facility.

1 **SEC. 744.[Log 85204] REVIEW BY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF**  
2 **THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ON EFFORTS**  
3 **TO PREVENT SUICIDE.**

4 (a) REVIEW.—The Inspector General of the Depart-  
5 ment of Defense shall conduct a review of the efforts of  
6 each Secretary of a military department to prevent inci-  
7 dents of deaths by suicide, suicide attempts, and suicidal  
8 ideation among members of the Armed Forces, including  
9 with respect to—

10 (1) efforts to increase public awareness of such  
11 prevention; and

12 (2) developing unit commanding officer crisis  
13 response plans.

14 (b) ELEMENTS.—The review under subsection (a)  
15 shall include an assessment of each of the following:

16 (1) The extent of data collected regarding inci-  
17 dents of deaths by suicide, suicide attempts, and sui-  
18 cidal ideation among members of the Armed Forces.

19 (2) The means used by commanders to prevent  
20 and respond to incidents of deaths by suicide, sui-  
21 cide attempts, and suicidal ideation among members.

22 (3) Challenges relating to—

23 (A) the prevention of incidents of deaths  
24 by suicide, suicide attempts, and suicidal idea-  
25 tion among members deployed; and

1 (B) the development of a response to such  
2 incidents.

3 (4) The capacity of teams providing mental  
4 health services to members to respond to incidents  
5 of suicidal ideation or suicide attempts among mem-  
6 bers in the respective unit each such team serves.

7 (5) The means used by such teams to respond  
8 to such incidents, including the extent to which post-  
9 incident programs are available to members.

10 (6) Barriers to providing signage and advertise-  
11 ments for mental health resources in high-traffic  
12 areas on installations.

13 (7) Current annual training requirements and  
14 leadership training programs for each Armed Force,  
15 including any enforcement measures.

16 (8) Such other matters as the Inspector Gen-  
17 eral determines appropriate.

18 (c) REPORT.—Not later April 30, 2027, the Inspector  
19 General of the Department of Defense shall submit to the  
20 Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House  
21 of Representatives a report that includes a summary of  
22 the results of the review under subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 745.** [Log 85059] **REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO**  
2 **WELLNESS CHECKS FOR HEALTH AND WEL-**  
3 **FARE OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED**  
4 **FORCES.**

5 (a) WELLNESS CHECKS.—

6 (1) WELLNESS CHECKS REQUIRED.—The Sec-  
7 retary of Defense shall issue such regulations, poli-  
8 cies, and procedures as may be necessary to require  
9 that, whenever appropriate, following a member of  
10 the Armed Forces sustaining any significant injury  
11 or illness or being on sick call, a wellness check is  
12 conducted to account for the health and welfare of  
13 such member.

14 (2) METHODS OF CONTACT.—In conducting a  
15 wellness check for a member of the Armed Forces  
16 pursuant to paragraph (1), if the member does not  
17 respond to such check conducted via an electronic or  
18 telephone communication method, the individual con-  
19 ducting the check shall progress to an in-person  
20 method of contact.

21 (3) RESULT OF FAILURE TO LOCATE.—If, as a  
22 result of a wellness check conducted pursuant to  
23 paragraph (1) for a member of the Armed Forces,  
24 the individual conducting such check is unable to lo-  
25 cate such member, the individual shall refer to the  
26 applicable regulations, policies, and procedures of

1 the Department of Defense regarding the determina-  
2 tion and reporting of such member as missing, ab-  
3 sent unknown, absent without leave, or duty status  
4 whereabouts unknown.

5 (b) IMPLEMENTATION BY UNIT COMMANDERS.—In  
6 carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall  
7 ensure that each unit commander coordinates with the  
8 judge advocates assigned or attached to, or performing  
9 duty with, the unit under the command of such com-  
10 mander for assistance in the implementation of any regu-  
11 lation, policy, or procedure required under subsection (a)  
12 with respect to such unit.

13 (c) ADDITIONAL ACTIONS BY UNIT COMMANDERS.—  
14 On a routine basis, each unit commander shall—

15 (1) review the requirements contained in the  
16 document titled “Commander’s Critical Information  
17 Requirements”, dated January 2020, or such suc-  
18 cessor document, to ensure such requirements—

19 (A) have been issued or updated during  
20 the three-year period preceding any such re-  
21 view;

22 (B) reflect such medical issues or safety  
23 incidents of members of the Armed Forces that  
24 the commander deems sufficiently significant;  
25 and

1 (C) have been distributed to the unit under  
2 the command of such commander; and

3 (2) host confidential wellness meetings with  
4 subordinate commanders at which such commanders  
5 may discuss with one or more medical officers as-  
6 signed to such unit any significant injuries or ill-  
7 nesses affecting members of the Armed Forces serv-  
8 ing in or with such unit.

9 (d) TRAINING COURSES.—Each Secretary concerned,  
10 and the Secretary of Defense with respect to civilian per-  
11 sonnel of the Department of Defense, shall develop and  
12 implement training courses to ensure each member of an  
13 Armed Forces under the jurisdiction of that Secretary (or  
14 each civilian employee of the Department of Defense, re-  
15 spectively) is aware of the importance of accountability  
16 with respect to health and welfare and of the significant  
17 negative outcomes that may occur when accountability  
18 procedures fail. Such courses shall be offered at leadership  
19 and supervisor trainings and shall include content relating  
20 to the conduct of wellness checks in accordance with sub-  
21 section (a) and other related actions.

22 (e) SECRETARY CONCERNED DEFINED.—In this sec-  
23 tion, the term “Secretary concerned” has the meaning  
24 given such term in section 101(a) of title 10, United  
25 States Code.

1 **SEC. 746.[Log 85025] REPORTS ON DEPARTMENT OF DE-**  
2 **FENSE COMPREHENSIVE AUTISM CARE DEM-**  
3 **ONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

4 (a) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDA-  
5 TIONS.—Not later than February 1, 2027, the Secretary  
6 of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Serv-  
7 ices of the House of Representatives and the Senate a re-  
8 port on the plan by the Secretary to implement the rec-  
9 ommendations made by the National Academies of  
10 Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine in the report on the  
11 Department of Defense Comprehensive Autism Care Dem-  
12 onstration program submitted under section 737 of the  
13 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022  
14 (Public Law 117–81; 135 Stat. 1800).

15 (b) SEMIANNUAL REPORTS.—On a semiannual basis,  
16 the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed  
17 Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate  
18 a report on the Department of Defense Comprehensive  
19 Autism Care Demonstration program, including the fol-  
20 lowing with respect to the period covered by the report:

21 (1) The total number of children receiving ap-  
22 plied behavior analysis services under the program.

23 (2) The total average wait time for such chil-  
24 dren, listed by the State in which such services are  
25 provided and calculated based on the date of the di-

1       agnosis of autism and the date on which such serv-  
2       ices are first provided.

3           (3) The number of new referrals for such serv-  
4       ices.

5           (4) The number of providers accepting new pa-  
6       tients for such services.

7           (5) The number of providers who no longer ac-  
8       cept new patients for such services.

9           (6) The average number of treatment sessions  
10      required by such children.

1 **SEC. 747.[Log 85048] TRANSITION OF MEDICS TO CIVILIAN**  
2 **WORKFORCE.**

3 (a) RECOMMENDATIONS.—

4 (1) REQUIREMENT.—Each Secretary concerned  
5 shall develop recommendations to improve the tran-  
6 sition of medics under the jurisdiction of the Sec-  
7 retary concerned into the civilian workforce in health  
8 care occupations, including as certified nurse aides,  
9 licensed practical nurses, or medical assistants.

10 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out para-  
11 graph (1), the Secretary concerned shall—

12 (A) identify any barriers—

13 (i) to improving the ability of the Sec-  
14 retary concerned to determine and commu-  
15 nicate how the military medic credentials  
16 and experience of a medic separating from  
17 the Armed Forces translate to credentialed  
18 civilian employment in health care occupa-  
19 tions;

20 (ii) that exist to the standardization  
21 among the Armed Forces of military medic  
22 credentials and experience and the align-  
23 ment of such credentials and experience to  
24 credentialed civilian employment in health  
25 care occupations;

1 (iii) that exist to ensuring members of  
2 the Armed Forces with military medic cre-  
3 dentials and experience have earned the  
4 equivalent civilian credential prior to sepa-  
5 ration from the Armed Forces in addition  
6 to receiving their military credentials;

7 (iv) to the increased establishment  
8 and uptake of accelerated or bridge pro-  
9 grams to assist separating members of the  
10 Armed Forces in translating military cre-  
11 dentials and experience into civilian health  
12 care credentials and employment;

13 (v) to increasing the availability and  
14 accessibility of preparatory activities under  
15 the SkillBridge program established under  
16 section 1143(e) of title 10, United States  
17 Code, in the health care sector for mem-  
18 bers of the Armed Forces preparing for  
19 separation, to include—

20 (I) the approval timeline for sep-  
21 arating members to participate in  
22 SkillBridge programs in the health  
23 care sector; and

1 (II) requirements to return to  
2 their duty station for out-processing;  
3 and

4 (vi) to providing information on civil-  
5 ian health care credentials and employment  
6 under the Transition Assistance Program  
7 to medics separating from the Armed  
8 Forces, including information on State-by-  
9 State licensing and credentialing; and  
10 (B) consider the potential effects of—

11 (i) clarification by States through leg-  
12 islation, actions of State licensing boards,  
13 or actions of State credentialing boards of  
14 the civilian equivalents of certain military  
15 credentials and experience in health care;

16 (ii) implementation, including through  
17 State-provided incentives, of accelerated  
18 programs to bridge military medic creden-  
19 tials and experience with civilian health  
20 care credentials and licenses;

21 (iii) financial support or incentives by  
22 States to increase the availability and ac-  
23 cessibility of such programs;

1 (iv) requiring the military depart-  
2 ments to align military health care creden-  
3 tials with civilian equivalents; and

4 (v) requiring the Department of Vet-  
5 erans Affairs and the Department of  
6 Labor to track and report the number of  
7 separated members of the Armed Forces  
8 with health care-related military creden-  
9 tials and experience who continue in the ci-  
10 vilian health care sector, including the type  
11 of employment they pursue.

12 (3) CONSULTATION.—The Secretaries con-  
13 cerned shall carry out paragraph (1) in consultation  
14 with each of the States (through the Defense-State  
15 Liaison Office of the Department of Defense), the  
16 Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of  
17 Health and Human Services, and the Secretary of  
18 Labor.

19 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
20 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall  
21 submit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-  
22 port containing—

23 (1) the recommendations developed under sub-  
24 section (a); and

1           (2) a plan to implement those recommenda-  
2           tions.

3           (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4           (1) The term “appropriate congressional com-  
5           mittees” means the following:

6                   (A) The Committee on Armed Services, the  
7                   Committee on Education and the Workforce,  
8                   the Committee on Transportation and Infra-  
9                   structure, and the Committee on Veterans’ Af-  
10                  fairs of the House of Representatives.

11                  (B) The Committee on Armed Services,  
12                  the Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
13                  Transportation, the Committee on Health, Edu-  
14                  cation, Labor, and Pensions, and the Com-  
15                  mittee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate.

16           (2) The term “medic” means a member of the  
17           Armed Forces acting in a clinical health care-related  
18           occupation while serving in the Armed Forces.

19           (3) The term “Secretary concerned” means—

20                   (A) the Secretary of Defense, with respect  
21                   to matters concerning the Department of De-  
22                   fense; and

23                   (B) the Secretary of Homeland Security,  
24                   with respect to matters concerning the Coast

1           Guard when it is not operating as a service in  
2           the Department of the Navy.

3           (4) The term “State” means each of the several  
4           States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth  
5           of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands,  
6           Guam, American Samoa, or the Commonwealth of  
7           the Northern Mariana Islands that have a Defense-  
8           State Liaison Office.

9           (5) The term “Transition Assistance Program”  
10          means the program of the Department of Defense  
11          for pre-separation counseling, employment assist-  
12          ance, and other transitional services provided under  
13          sections 1142 and 1144 of title 10, United States  
14          Code.

1           **Subtitle D—Miscellaneous**  
2           **Authorities and Limitations**

3   **SEC. 1041.[Log 85206] INCLUSION OF NATIONAL GUARD RE-**  
4                   **LIEF FOUNDATION AS A MILITARY WELFARE**  
5                   **SOCKET FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.**

6           (a) PROVISION OF SPACE AND SERVICES.—Section  
7 2566(b)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended  
8 by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

9                   “(E) The National Guard Relief Founda-  
10                   tion.”.

11           (b) NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES AUTHORIZED FOR PUR-  
12 POSES OF CERTAIN PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS OF THE  
13 ARMED FORCES.—Section 1033(b)(2) of title 10, United  
14 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
15 lowing new subparagraph:

16                   “(E) National Guard Relief Foundation.”.

1 **SEC. 1101. [Log 85060] SKILLS-BASED HIRING FOR DEPART-**  
2 **MENT OF DEFENSE CIVILIAN POSITIONS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 81 of title 10, United  
4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
5 lowing new section:

6 **“§ 1599k. Skills-based hiring for civilian positions**

7 “(a) FRAMEWORK FOR SKILLS-BASED HIRING.—

8 “(1) The Secretary of Defense shall establish  
9 and implement a skills-based hiring framework for  
10 appointment to a position in the competitive service  
11 or the excepted service that—

12 “(A) prioritizes the evaluation of appli-  
13 cants based on demonstrated competencies,  
14 skills, and relevant experience and validated as-  
15 sessments; and

16 “(B) permits applicants to qualify for posi-  
17 tions through one or more pathways based on  
18 experience, training, apprenticeships, certifi-  
19 cations, licenses, education, or other alternative  
20 credentials, as appropriate to the duties of the  
21 position.

22 “(2) Qualification standards for a position shall  
23 be based on a job analysis that identifies the com-  
24 petencies, knowledge, skills, abilities, and education,  
25 if applicable, necessary to perform the essential du-  
26 ties of the position.

1 “(b) USE OF EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in sub-  
3 section (c), and consistent with paragraph (2) of this  
4 subsection, the Secretary may waive or remove a  
5 minimum education requirement as a mandatory  
6 qualification standard for appointment to a position  
7 based on a determination that the competencies re-  
8 quired for the position may be demonstrated through  
9 relevant experience, apprenticeships, certifications,  
10 validated assessments, or other alternative qualifica-  
11 tions.

12 “(2) SUNSET.—The authority to waive or re-  
13 move a minimum education requirement under para-  
14 graph (1) shall expire on the date that is five years  
15 after the date of the enactment of the National De-  
16 fense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2027.

17 “(c) EXCEPTIONS.—Subsection (b) shall not apply to  
18 a position—

19 “(1) for which a minimum education require-  
20 ment is established by Federal statute;

21 “(2) in a recognized profession for which a min-  
22 imum education requirement is necessary for profes-  
23 sional licensure, certification, or accreditation by a  
24 recognized accrediting body, including positions in  
25 the fields of medicine, law, engineering, accounting,

1 and other professions as determined by the Sec-  
2 retary; or

3 “(3) classified in a scientific or technical occu-  
4 pational series for which the Office of Personnel  
5 Management has established a positive education re-  
6 quirement that the Secretary determines is directly  
7 and specifically necessary for satisfactory perform-  
8 ance of the duties of the position.

9 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 “(1) EDUCATION.—The term ‘education’ means  
11 any form of formal learning, including a high school  
12 diploma or its equivalent, a credential from a quali-  
13 fying career or technical education program, an as-  
14 sociate, baccalaureate, graduate, or professional de-  
15 gree, or industry-recognized certifications and ap-  
16 prenticeships.

17 “(2) EDUCATION REQUIREMENT.—The term  
18 ‘education requirement’ includes a requirement that  
19 can be met through—

20 “(A) education alone; or

21 “(B) a combination of education and expe-  
22 rience.”.

23 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—  
24 The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is  
25 amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“1599k. Skills-based hiring for civilian positions.”.

1 (c) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180  
2 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
3 retary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense  
4 committees a plan for implementing this section, includ-  
5 ing—

6 (1) a timeline for implementation of this sec-  
7 tion;

8 (2) a strategy for training hiring managers and  
9 human resources professionals on skills-based assess-  
10 ment methods;

11 (3) a description of validated assessment tools  
12 the Department plans to develop or adopt; and

13 (4) metrics for evaluating the impacts of this  
14 section on time-to-hire, quality of hire, and retention  
15 rates.

16 (d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after  
17 the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter  
18 for five years, the Secretary of Defense shall submit a re-  
19 port on the authority under section 1599k(b) of title 10,  
20 United States Code, as added by this Act. The report shall  
21 include the following:

22 (1) Identification of any occupational series or  
23 position for which the authority under such section  
24 is exercised.

1           (2) The service, agency, or component to which  
2           such position is assigned.

3           (3) The justification for exercising such section  
4           for each such occupational series or position.

5           (e) APPLICABILITY.—Section 1599k of title 10,  
6           United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall  
7           apply with respect to job opportunity announcements  
8           issued on or after the date that is 18 months after the  
9           date of the enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 1102. [LOG 85502] ESTABLISHMENT OF A STUDENT IN-**  
2 **TERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR MILITARY CHILD**  
3 **AND YOUTH PROGRAMS.**

4 Subchapter II of chapter 88 of title 10, United States  
5 Code, is amended by inserting after section 1792 the fol-  
6 lowing new section:

7 **“§ 1792a. Internship program for military child and**  
8 **youth programs**

9 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than one year  
10 after the date of the enactment of the National Defense  
11 Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2027, the Secretary of  
12 Defense shall establish and carry out an internship pro-  
13 gram through which an individual described in subsection  
14 (b) may perform duties as an intern in a military child  
15 and youth program to prepare the individual for possible  
16 future employment in a military child and youth program.

17 “(b) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—An individual eligible  
18 to be an intern participating in the internship program  
19 under this section is an individual who—

20 “(1) is a student in good standing at an institu-  
21 tion of higher education; and

22 “(2) the Secretary determines—

23 “(A) to be qualified and talented; and

24 “(B) has passed appropriate screening and  
25 background checks.

1       “(c) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—Requirements of  
2 the internship program shall include the following:

3           “(1) An intern may perform duties only in a  
4 military child development center under the super-  
5 vision of a child care employee.

6           “(2) Pursuant to section 1588(a)(3)(B) of this  
7 title, a student intern shall perform their duties on  
8 a voluntary basis.

9           “(3) A student intern may not work more than  
10 eight hours a day or a total of 40 hours per week.

11       “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN EXPENSES.—The  
12 Secretary may pay the following expenses incurred in the  
13 course of an intern’s participation in the internship pro-  
14 gram:

15           “(1) Lodging expenses.

16           “(2) Subsistence expenses.

17           “(3) Incidental expenses.

18           “(4) Transportation expenses for transportation  
19 between the residence of the intern and the military  
20 installation where the intern performs duties under  
21 the internship program.

22       “(e) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into  
23 agreements with one or more institutions of higher edu-  
24 cation so an intern may receive appropriate levels credit

1 towards a graduate or undergraduate degree for duties  
2 performed under the internship program.

3       “(f) DEFINITION OF INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDU-  
4 CATION.—In this section, the term ‘institution of higher  
5 education’ has the meaning given that term in section 102  
6 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).”.

1 **SEC. 1103. [LOG 85541] 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), as most recently amended by sec-  
9 tion 1105 of the National Defense Authorization Act for  
10 Fiscal Year 2026 (Public Law 119–60; 139 Stat. 1074),  
11 is further amended by striking “through 2026” and in-  
12 serting “through 2027”.

1 **SEC. 1104. [LOG 85613] 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 1106 of  
13 the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year  
14 2026 (Public Law 119–60; 139 Stat. 1074), is further  
15 amended by striking “2027” and inserting “2028”.

1 **SEC. 1105. [LOG 85090] 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 subsection (a)(1), by striking “rent” and  
9 inserting “rent or mortgage payments”;

10 (2) by striking subsection (d) (relating to sun-  
11 set date 3 years after the date of the enactment of  
12 the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal  
13 Year 2026); and

14 (3) by redesignating subsection (c) (relating to  
15 sunset date of January 1, 2034) at the end as sub-  
16 section (d).

1 **SEC. 1106.[Log 85184] PILOT PROGRAM ON INTEGRATION**  
2 **OF UNITED STATES TECH FORCE WITH**  
3 **SKILLS-BASED HIRING AUTHORITIES.**

4 (a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense  
6 shall carry out a pilot program to integrate the  
7 United States Tech Force into the implementation  
8 of the hiring and promotion reforms authorized  
9 under the National Defense Authorization Act for  
10 Fiscal Year 2026 (Public Law 119–60).

11 (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the pilot is to  
12 use the United States Tech Force to develop, vali-  
13 date, and deploy the skills-based assessments re-  
14 quired to modernize the defense workforce.

15 (b) USE OF COMMERCIAL TECHNOLOGY FOR SKILLS  
16 VERIFICATION.—In carrying out the pilot program, the  
17 Secretary of Defense shall use commercially available,  
18 interoperable technology platforms to—

19 (1) create a “Digital Skills Passport” for mem-  
20 bers of the United States Tech Force and Depart-  
21 ment of Defense civilian employees, documenting  
22 verified competencies rather than solely degrees or  
23 tenure;

24 (2) automatically map the skills possessed by  
25 United States Tech Force participants to gaps iden-

1       tified in the Department of Defense cyber and dig-  
2       ital workforce; and

3           (3) track the mobility of talent across the De-  
4       partment based on skills proficiency, consistent with  
5       the removal of time-in-grade restrictions.

6       (c) REPORTING.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
7       of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense  
8       shall submit to the congressional defense committees a re-  
9       port on the effectiveness of using commercial skills-based  
10      platforms to integrate the United States Tech Force with  
11      Department of Defense hiring authorities.

12      (d) SUNSET.—The authority to carry out the pilot  
13      program under this section shall expire on the date that  
14      is five years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 1107. [LOG 85232] ENHANCED HIRING AUTHORITY FOR**  
2 **INSTRUCTOR PILOTS AND CIVILIAN SIMU-**  
3 **LATOR INSTRUCTORS.**

4 (a) **DIRECT HIRE.**—The Secretary of Defense may  
5 appoint, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I  
6 of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, (other than  
7 sections 3303, 3307, and 3328 of such chapter), qualified  
8 candidates to instructor pilot positions and civilian simu-  
9 lator instructor positions.

10 (b) **RATES OF PAY.**—The Secretary may set annual  
11 rates of pay for such positions without regard to the provi-  
12 sions chapters 51 and 53 (relating to classification and  
13 pay rates) of such title 5. Such rates shall be equal to  
14 the annual rate of pay for positions in private industry  
15 comparable to instructor pilot positions and civilian simu-  
16 lator instructor positions, as determined by the Secretary.

17 (c) **RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION AUTHORITY.**—  
18 The Secretary may use the authority provided under sec-  
19 tions 5373 and section of title 5, United States Code, for  
20 the payment of recruitment, relocation, and retention in-  
21 centives to instructor pilots and civilian simulator instruc-  
22 tors or applicants to such positions.

23 (d) **STUDY AND REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year  
24 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
25 shall conduct a study on the hiring authorities issued  
26 under this section and submit a report on such study to

1 the congressional defense committees. Such study shall in-  
2 clude information with respect to the following:

3 (1) How the authority under this section is  
4 being used, including—

5 (A) how many instances such authority has  
6 been used and where the authority is being  
7 used;

8 (B) time to hire; and

9 (C) the hiring incentives, recruitment bo-  
10 nuses, and special pay authorities used under  
11 this section

12 (2) The total number of—

13 (A) vacant instructor pilot positions and ci-  
14 vilian simulator instructor positions filled using  
15 such authority; and

16 (B) vacant instructor pilot positions and  
17 civilian simulator instructor positions remain-  
18 ing.

19 (3) Any additional authorities necessary to en-  
20 sure the Secretary is able to hire and retain instruc-  
21 tor pilots and civilian simulator instructors.

22 (e) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall  
23 terminate on the date that is five years after the date of  
24 the enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 1108. [LOG 85308] PILOT PROGRAM ON TECH TALENT**  
2 **COMPETITIVENESS.**

3 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—Not later than 180 days after  
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
5 Defense shall establish a pilot program that expedites and  
6 scales the sourcing and placement of early-career talent  
7 across the Department of Defense in the areas of science,  
8 technology, engineering, and math and functional areas of  
9 artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, biotechnology, mate-  
10 rials and manufacturing, and business process innovation.  
11 In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary of De-  
12 fense shall—

13 (1) use the authorities under section  
14 213.3102(r) of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations,  
15 to appoint individuals in support of establishing fel-  
16 lowships;

17 (2) develop and implement a process for identi-  
18 fying, sourcing, and training a pool of qualified can-  
19 didates;

20 (3) establish a professional development struc-  
21 ture for pilot program participants; and

22 (4) partner with a nonprofit intermediary orga-  
23 nization that have a proven track record in deliv-  
24 ering efficient recruitment and screening processes  
25 and have demonstrated expertise in navigating the  
26 Federal security clearance procedures to support the

1 development of qualified talent pools with the nec-  
2 essary skills and expertise.

3 (b) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180  
4 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annu-  
5 ally thereafter until the pilot program sunsets, the Sec-  
6 retary of Defense shall provide an assessment to the con-  
7 gressional defense committees on the effectiveness of the  
8 pilot program. Each such assessment shall include—

9 (1) an evaluation of the efficacy in matching  
10 the pre-vetted pools of candidates to the require-  
11 ments of the Department of Defense; and

12 (2) the effectiveness of partnering with inter-  
13 mediary organizations for the purposes of carrying  
14 out activities in support of developing qualified pools  
15 of talent with the skills and expertise necessary to  
16 meet the purposes of the pilot program.

17 (c) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.—For the purposes  
18 of carrying out this section, the Secretary of Defense  
19 may—

20 (1) waive any requirement for a permanent bil-  
21 let to be required to support hiring of talent;

22 (2) make selections based on needs and avail-  
23 able budget; and

24 (3) direct legal counsel of the Department to  
25 provide guidance that—

1 (A) enables post-employment opportunities  
2 by avoiding government assignments that pre-  
3 clude hiring outside the Federal Government  
4 following the term appointment; and

5 (B) requires ethics officials to provide  
6 guidance that aligns with the temporary nature  
7 of the appointment and design protocols to min-  
8 imize post-employment restrictions.

9 (d) SUNSET.—The pilot program shall terminate on  
10 the date that is 3 years after the date such program is  
11 established.

12 (e) INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—In  
13 this section, the term “intermediary organization”  
14 means—

15 (1) a nonprofit registered under section  
16 501(c)(3) of title 26, United States Code; and

17 (2) an organization having demonstrated exper-  
18 tise in—

19 (A) streamlining recruitment and pre-  
20 screening for early-career tech talent;

21 (B) carrying out public-private talent ex-  
22 changes through a proven track record, includ-  
23 ing managing rotations between private and  
24 public sector entities and reducing govern-  
25 mental administrative burden in the process;

- 1 (C) skills development and mentorship pro-
- 2 gramming that ensures program participants
- 3 remain on the cutting edge of their technical
- 4 and management skills; and
- 5 (D) the Federal security clearance process.

1 **SEC. 1412.[Log 84984] AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-**  
2 **TIONS FOR ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT**  
3 **HOME.**

4       There is hereby authorized to be appropriated for fis-  
5 cal year 2027 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 **SEC. 1702 [Log 85590]. COPYRIGHT TO A LITERARY WORK**  
2 **PRODUCED BY A CIVILIAN FACULTY MEMBER**  
3 **OF A SPACE FORCE PROFESSIONAL MILI-**  
4 **TARY EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE COURSE**  
5 **OF EMPLOYMENT: FREE USE BY THE FED-**  
6 **ERAL GOVERNMENT.**

7 (a) USE BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.—Subsection  
8 (d)(2) of section 105 of title 17, United States Code, is  
9 amended—

10 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (M)  
11 through (O) as subparagraphs (O) through (Q); and

12 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (L) the fol-  
13 lowing new subparagraphs:

14 “(M) Space Force Senior Level Education  
15 Program.

16 “(N) Space Force Intermediate Level Edu-  
17 cation Program.”.

18 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (c) of  
19 such section is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (1)—

21 (A) by striking “through (L)” and insert-  
22 ing “through (N)”;

23 (B) by striking “subparagraph (M)” and  
24 inserting “subparagraph (O)”;

25 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “subsection  
26 (d)(2)(M)” and inserting “subsection (d)(2)(O)”;

1           (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “subsection  
2           (d)(2)(N)” and inserting “subsection (d)(2)(P”;  
3           and  
4           (4) in paragraph (4), by striking “subsection  
5           (d)(2)(O)” and inserting “subsection (d)(2)(Q”.

1 **SEC. 2812. [Log 85540]. EXPANSION OF PROTECTIONS**  
2 **AGAINST REPRISAL OR RETALIATION FOR**  
3 **CERTAIN TENANTS OF PRIVATIZED MILITARY**  
4 **HOUSING.**

5 Section 2890 of title 10, United States Code, is  
6 amended—

7 (1) in subsection (b)(7), by striking “and hous-  
8 ing management office” and inserting “housing  
9 management office, the Chief Housing Officer of the  
10 Department of Defense, the Inspector General of the  
11 Department of Defense, the Inspector General of the  
12 military department concerned, or a Member of Con-  
13 gress”; and

14 (2) in subsection (e)—

15 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “for re-  
16 porting an issue relating to a housing unit” and  
17 inserting the following: “who reports an issue  
18 relating to a housing unit to any of the fol-  
19 lowing:

20 “(A) The landlord.

21 “(B) The chain of command.

22 “(C) The applicable housing management of-  
23 fice.

24 “(D) The Chief Housing Officer of the Depart-  
25 ment of Defense.

1           “(E) The Inspector General of the Department  
2 of Defense.

3           “(F) The Inspector General of the military de-  
4 partment concerned.

5           “(G) A Member of Congress.”; and

6           (B) in paragraph (2)—

7           (i) by redesignating subparagraphs  
8 (A) and (B) as subparagraphs (B) and  
9 (C), respectively;

10           (ii) by inserting before subparagraph  
11 (B), as so redesignated, the following new  
12 subparagraph (A):

13           “(A) provide notice of that determination  
14 to the Secretary of the military department con-  
15 cerned;”; and

16           (iii) in subparagraph (C), as so redesi-  
17 gnated, by striking “the Inspector General  
18 has taken final action” and inserting “the  
19 Secretary of the military department con-  
20 cerned has notified the Inspector General  
21 that the Secretary has taken final action”.

# **DIRECTIVE REPORT LANGUAGE**

# Table Of Contents

## **DIVISION A—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATIONS**

### **TITLE V—MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY**

#### **ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST**

Acceptance Of State-Recognized Custody Documentation for Defense  
Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System Enrollment  
Active Guard and Reserve Service for Purposes of Veterans Benefits  
Administrative Separations for Shaving Profiles  
Air Force Technical Training Capacity and Support  
Army E9 Training Timeline  
Bureaucratic and Statutory Barriers for Separating Junior Enlisted Marines  
Chaplain Corps Recruitment Report  
Department of Defense Education Activity Phones in Schools Study  
Department of Defense Review of RAND Duty Status Consolidation Report  
Establishing an Exceptional Family Member Program Optimization  
Demonstration Program  
Funding Requirements for Army National Guard Lodging-in-Kind and Travel  
Support  
Government Accountability Office Review of Special Trial Counsel Staffing and  
Resources  
Impact of Rising Energy Costs on Servicemembers and the Department  
Impact of State Maritime Academies On Department of Defense Personnel and  
Readiness  
Military Recruitment in Guam  
Navy Command Readiness, Endurance, and Watchstanding  
Opt In Option for Applicants to Military Academies  
Purple Heart Database  
Space Force Continuous Fitness Assessment  
Utilization of Intergovernmental Service Agreements to Expand Access to Child  
Care  
Utilization of Rapid DNA Capabilities

### **TITLE VI—COMPENSATION AND OTHER PERSONNEL**

#### **BENEFITS**

#### **ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST**

Defense Finance and Account Service Payroll Reform Review  
Review of Alaska Remote Assignment Travel Reimbursement and Potential  
Expansion  
Sailors Living Ashore Briefing

### **TITLE VII—HEALTH CARE PROVISIONS**

#### **ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST**

Air Force Suicide Prevention Training Programs  
Artificial Intelligence Translation for Military Medical Missions

Assessment of Emerging Clinical Research for Treatment-Resistant PTSD  
Combating Respiratory Infections  
Comptroller General Study of Uniformed Services University Medical School  
Enhanced Readiness for Sudden Cardiac Arrest  
Evaluation of the Mission 100 Wellness Program  
Medical Readiness in the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands  
Military Health System Structure and Health Care Delivery  
Military Surgical Readiness and Combat Casualty Care Capacity  
Optometry Services at Military Treatment Facilities  
Patient Safety during Sensitive Medical Exams and Procedures  
Perioperative Care within the Military Healthcare System  
Plan for Testing for Helicobacter Pylori for Certain Members of the Armed Forces  
Results of Prohibition of Painful Animal Research  
Suicide Analytic Variable Evaluation System  
Uniform Formulary Beneficiary Advisory Panel  
Wellness Applications Expansion Report

#### **TITLE XI—CIVILIAN PERSONNEL MATTERS**

##### **ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST**

Minimum Firefighter Manning Requirements on Army Installations

#### **TITLE XVII—OTHER DEFENSE MATTERS**

##### **ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST**

Tobacco Products Sold on Military Installations

---

## **DIVISION A—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATIONS**

### **TITLE V—MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY**

#### **ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST**

Acceptance Of State-Recognized Custody Documentation for Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System Enrollment

The committee is aware of concerns expressed by servicemembers related to utilization of the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and the administrative hurdles that delay servicemembers and their families from obtaining ID cards, TRICARE coverage, and access to other important benefits.

The committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 31, 2027, on the Department of Defense's ability to accept custody or placement documents that are legally valid under all 54 state and territorial laws regardless of whether it was signed by a judge, magistrate, or court clerk. This briefing should include the following information:

- (1) the DEERS policy for determining a dependent child's eligibility for benefits administered by the Department of Defense or the Defense Finance and Accounting Service;
- (2) listing of valid legal documentation accepted by DEERS;
- (3) listing of states that provide valid legal documentation of custody or placement documents that differ from the current DEERS policy;
- (4) efforts DEERS can make to bridge the administrative gaps to accommodate servicemembers and their families that move across states for military assignments while ensuring respect for state-recognized legal authority;
- (5) identify any potential risks for fraud the implementation of these changes may have;
- (6) historical data on any administrative backlogs and the cause of the backlogs for the past five years; and
- (7) any other topics deemed relevant by the Secretary.

#### Active Guard and Reserve Service for Purposes of Veterans Benefits

The committee is aware of concerns raised by members of the National Guard and Reserve components regarding inconsistencies in the recognition and crediting Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) service for purposes of eligibility for certain benefits. The committee acknowledges that AGR members that frequently serve alongside Active Component personnel under similar conditions should have their service accurately accounted for and credited.

The committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 31, 2027, on existing statutes, regulations, and policies governing the crediting of AGR service for the purposes of eligibility for benefits administered by the Department of Defense. This report shall include the following information:

- (1) an assessment of how periods of AGR service are currently categorized and documented for purposes of benefits determinations;
- (2) identification of any statutory or regulatory barriers that limit the recognition of AGR service as qualifying Active Duty for specific benefits;
- (3) an evaluation of the extent to which full-time AGR service that does not include overseas deployment is treated differently from other forms of full-time active service; and
- (4) recommendations for legislative or administrative action to ensure that full-time AGR service is appropriately recognized for purposes of benefits, consistent with congressional intent and principles of equity across the Total Force.

#### Administrative Separations for Shaving Profiles

The committee notes that the September 30, 2025, Directive issued by the Secretary of Defense titled "Grooming Standards for Facial Hair" removes permanent profiles for medical conditions that impact a servicemember's ability to remain clean shaven, the most common being pseudofolliculitis barbae (PFB), and

instead directs only temporary profiles be considered. Per this directive, permanent conditions requiring a shaving profile over 12 months will result in evaluation for administrative separation. There is an increased prevalence of PFB among servicemembers with tight curly hair, which are predominantly non-Hispanic Black men and constitute over 60 percent of PFB cases in the military. The committee is concerned that this directive will disproportionately impact servicemembers with PFB. Therefore, the committee directs the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 31, 2027, including the following:

- (1) all involuntary separations in which a medical shaving profile was cited as a contributing factor with demographic information of each separated servicemember, to include age, sex, race, grade, duty station, length of military service, and any other information deemed relevant for reporting purposes;
- (2) the effectiveness of medical mitigation measures and educational resources provided to servicemembers requiring a shaving profile, and any changes to policy based on emerging trends and medical provider feedback;
- (3) the effectiveness of medical mitigation measures and educational resources provided to servicemembers requiring a shaving profile; and
- (4) any changes to policy based on emerging trends and medical provider feedback.

#### Air Force Technical Training Capacity and Support

The committee notes that under current practice, Unit Manning Document (UMD) authorizations primarily reflect permanently assigned personnel, since there is no statutory requirement or enterprise-wide methodology to account for the sustained support demands generated by large rotational student populations. Because Average Daily Load (ADL) reflects the steady-state population physically present and requiring installation support, inclusion of an appropriate percentage—based on mission requirements, support demands, and cost considerations—would improve the accuracy of manpower planning for essential services such as housing, medical care, logistics, security, and base operations.

To ensure Air Force training installations are resourced in proportion to their enduring support workload, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than April 1, 2027 on the feasibility of establishing a standardized methodology for incorporating a designated percentage of each installation's ADL into UMD authorizations to preserve flexibility for the Air Force to adjust the applicable percentage as operational conditions evolve, while ensuring consistent recognition of the sustained workload generated by rotational student populations essential to force readiness.

#### Army E9 Training Timeline

The committee believes as the Army moves forward with its Continuous Transformation initiative, it must examine all legacy programs, including the process, timeframe, and cost of training its most senior enlisted members. Historically, the Army has mandated a selection process that sends Master Sergeants selected for promotion to attend the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy through the Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Center of Excellence. However, the Army takes exponentially longer to train and certify its E9 population than the Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps. These services require short courses, not longer than 6 weeks, with some specialized training adding only a few weeks longer. The Army requires 10 months of training and a full permanent change of station (PCS) before these troops are even considered for promotion. This has a major impact on military families who must move a minimum of 2 times in 12 months. It also generates a significant expense for the Army.

Therefore the committee directs the Chief of Staff of the Army to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than May 1, 2027 that includes:

- (1) an overview of the curriculum required at the US Army Sergeant Major Course (SMC), including a month-to-month breakdown of subject matter;
- (2) an explanation of why the Army requires a much longer timeline than other services for certifying the E9 population;
- (3) an estimate of total PCS costs per soldier and cumulative costs based on the average SMC class size;
- (4) average length of service of Sergeants Major after promotion from Master Sergeant; and
- (5) impacts and challenges for military families upon selection for in-resident SMC.

#### Bureaucratic and Statutory Barriers for Separating Junior Enlisted Marines

The committee understands that over the last 40 years the United States Marine Corps discharged approximately 75 percent of first-term Marines. The committee also understands that the Marine Corps is transforming from a recruit and replace model to an invest and retain model, retaining more Marines after their first enlistment. Nonetheless, the committee acknowledges that a substantial portion of Marines separate from service after their first enlistment and junior enlisted veterans have some of the steepest challenges transitioning from the military to the civilian workforce. The committee believes that the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and Skillbridge are excellent programs that address many of these challenges. Nonetheless, the committee believes there may be bureaucratic and statutory barriers that may prevent junior enlisted Marines' transition into the civilian workforce. Therefore, the committee directs the Commandant of the Marine Corps to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than April 1, 2027, on the following:

- (1) the statutory barriers junior enlisted Marines have when applying for employment in both private industry and Government;
- (2) the bureaucratic hurdles junior enlisted Marines have when applying for employment in both private industry and Government;
- (3) what memorandums of understanding or memorandums of agreement exist with respect to Marines transitioning to positions of life, health, or safety at the local or state levels; and
- (4) recommendations for statutory and regulatory changes to assist transitioning Marines.

### Chaplain Corps Recruitment Report

The committee is aware that recruitment of chaplains remains a challenge across the military services and varies based on religion. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretaries of the military departments, to provide a report on current recruitment and retention challenges for chaplains to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than April 1, 2027, on the following:

- (1) challenges and barriers faced in recruitment for each religion;
  - (2) abilities of chaplains to offer ministry services;
  - (3) number of vacant chaplain positions by religion and branch;
  - (4) recommendations on authorities to expand recruitment opportunities;
- and
- (5) a review of the personnel requirements for chaplains during fiscal years 2023 through 2026.

### Department of Defense Education Activity Phones in Schools Study

The committee commends the Department of Defense's efforts to implement Section 589B of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 (Public Law 119-60), which required the Department of Defense to update existing regulations on the student use of portable electronic mobile devices in Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) schools to prohibit disruption in the learning environment.

To understand the impact of these updated regulations on the DODEA learning environment and student population, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Director of DODEA, to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than April 1, 2027, on the impact of the updated regulations on:

- (1) student learning and academic achievement;
- (2) student educational outcomes and engagement;
- (3) student mental health;
- (4) classroom instruction; and
- (5) school climate and student behavior.

## Department of Defense Review of RAND Duty Status Consolidation Report

While the Department has provided initial findings regarding Reserve Component duty status reform, the committee remains concerned about the slow pace of implementing the suggested report of consolidating the 29 statuses into 4 broad categories.

The committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than January 31, 2027, on the Department's formal opinion in the committee report accompanying the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (H. Rept 115-404). This briefing shall include:

- (1) additional recommendations of consolidation to the current duty status system;
- (2) how changes recommended in the report will ensure servicemembers performing similar jobs receive equitable benefits and pay;
- (3) estimated cost-savings or cost-burden to the Department of Defense on implementing a duty status consolidation; and
- (4) current barriers to implementation.

### Establishing an Exceptional Family Member Program Optimization Demonstration Program

The committee is aware that multiple Government Accountability Office reports, and the 2023 Department of Defense Inspector General audit, identified significant inconsistencies in implementation of the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) across the military departments. Persistent deficiencies in oversight, coordination, standardization, and centralized accountability have resulted in uneven compliance with EFMP policy. These systemic disparities adversely affect recruiting, readiness, deployability, and retention. Innovative technology-enabled case management solutions piloted at Travis Air Force Base have demonstrated measurable improvements in connecting EFMP families to critical community-based resources in real time. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services on the implementation of an EFMP optimization demonstration program not later than April 1, 2027. The briefing shall include the following:

- (1) analysis on locations that would benefit from the program;
- (2) feasibility of implementing an individualized, technology-enabled case management system which would include a dynamic interoperable database that captures the full spectrum of EFMP services at those locations; and
- (3) cost associated with implementing the program.

### Funding Requirements for Army National Guard Lodging-in-Kind and Travel Support

The committee remains concerned regarding the disparity in benefits provided to members of the Army National Guard (ARNG) compared to their counterparts in the Army Reserve, specifically concerning travel and lodging support for Inactive Duty Training (IDT). The committee notes that while the Army Reserve provides a robust Lodging-in-Kind program for Soldiers that qualify, many ARNG Soldiers must incur significant personal expenses to meet their statutory training requirements.

The committee directs the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than February 1, 2027, on the funding requirements to establish and maintain a comprehensive Lodging-in-Kind and travel support program for the ARNG that achieves parity with the Army Reserve. The report shall include:

- (1) an assessment of the current out-of-pocket costs incurred by ARNG members for travel and lodging associated with IDT;
- (2) a detailed cost estimate for providing Lodging-in-Kind to all ARNG members residing more than 150 miles from their assigned drill location;
- (3) a detailed cost estimate for providing travel reimbursement for members in critically short specialties or those residing more than 150 miles from their assigned unit;
- (4) an analysis of how such a program would impact recruitment and retention within the ARNG; and
- (5) a legislative and regulatory roadmap for the implementation of a centralized, federally-funded program to ensure standard application across all 54 States and territories.

#### Government Accountability Office Review of Special Trial Counsel Staffing and Resources

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 marked a seminal change in military justice. Specifically, the Act amended the Uniform Code of Military Justice to remove the decision-making authority to prosecute certain cases from military commanders and place it with a newly established, independent Office of Special Trial Counsel (OSTC) within each military service. Since the formal transfer of this authority to each service's OSTC beginning in December 2023, each office has had exclusive authority within its respective service to prosecute a series of covered cases, including murder, rape and sexual assault, kidnapping, domestic violence, stalking, and child pornography. However, the committee is aware of recent Department of Defense tasking of Judge Advocate support to other government agencies and is concerned about the potential impacts that such assignments may have on the resourcing and staffing of the respective OSTCs. Therefore, the Committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to assess the following:

- (1) the extent to which the military services have optimized their respective OSTC's workforce and resources to meet workload requirements;

(2) the extent to which the military services have developed and implemented a strategic plan for identifying and addressing workforce and resource challenges in a timely manner;

(3) the extent to which tasking Judge Advocate support to other governmental agencies like the Department of Justice has impacted OSTC resourcing, staffing, and workload; and

(4) the potential impacts on Judge Advocates' careers to include promotion potential and relevant skills, gained or lost, as a result of these nontraditional assignments.

The Committee further directs the Comptroller General to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than May 16, 2027, on preliminary findings, with the results of the review to follow in a report not later than December 1, 2027.

### Impact of Rising Energy Costs on Servicemembers and the Department

The committee notes growing national energy demand associated with emerging technologies and related infrastructure. The committee is concerned that increased energy consumption and associated utility costs in certain regions may affect Department of Defense installations and service members residing on and off military installations. The committee believes the Department should assess potential impacts on installation operating costs, housing expenses, and financial readiness of servicemembers.

The committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives not later than February 1, 2027, on the impact of rising energy costs associated with the growth of emerging technology and its infrastructure on the Department of Defense and servicemembers. The report shall include the following:

(1) an assessment of current and projected increases in installation energy costs attributable to regional energy demand growth associated with emerging technology and emerging technology facilities;

(2) an analysis of the impact of rising utility costs on servicemembers and military families, including those residing in privatized housing and in the surrounding civilian communities;

(3) the number of servicemembers who have sought financial assistance, including loans, grants, or other relief, to support payment of utility bills during the preceding three fiscal years, disaggregated by military department, to the extent practicable;

(4) an evaluation of the extent to which increases in energy costs are affecting installation operating budgets, training activities, or facility sustainment accounts;

(5) an assessment of existing authorities and programs available to mitigate utility cost burdens on servicemembers, including financial readiness programs and emergency relief societies; and

(6) a description of the Department’s plan to address projected increases in energy demand and costs, including energy resilience measures, on-installation generation, long-term power purchase agreements, and coordination with Federal and State energy regulators.

### Impact of State Maritime Academies On Department of Defense Personnel and Readiness

The committee recognizes the vital role State Maritime Academies play in producing highly trained, licensed mariners essential for the U.S. Navy, Military Sealift Command, and the broader commercial maritime industry. The committee notes that the nation's Maritime Industrial Base (MIB) requires a steady, robust pipeline of skilled professionals to support shipbuilding, repair, and operational readiness, particularly in the strategically critical Indo-Pacific region. State Maritime Academies are uniquely positioned to support these regional requirements. To ensure the long-term viability of the maritime workforce, the Department of the Navy must maximize its partnerships and investments in these academic institutions, including support for training infrastructure, workforce development programs, and student scholarships. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Navy, in coordination with the Director of the Maritime Industrial Base program, to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than December 1, 2027, detailing current investments and future strategies to leverage State Maritime Academies for maritime workforce development. Specifically, the report shall include:

(1) a detailed assessment of current Department of the Navy and Maritime Industrial Base office investments at State Maritime Academies, including West Coast institutions;

(2) an evaluation of existing workforce development programs, hands-on training initiatives, and the availability of scholarship opportunities to recruit and retain low-income students in maritime careers;

(3) an assessment of the material condition, ongoing maintenance needs, and fuel expenses associated with the training vessels utilized by these academies to produce credentialed mariners;

(4) an analysis of current workforce deficits within the West Coast maritime industrial base and how these academies can be further utilized or expanded to bridge those gaps; and

(5) recommendations for increased interagency coordination, including with the Maritime Administration, statutory authorities, or dedicated funding streams needed to optimize these academies as a premier pipeline for military and commercial maritime readiness.

### Military Recruitment in Guam

The committee recognizes the strategic importance of Guam and acknowledges that individuals from Guam serve in the Armed Forces at

disproportionally high rates. The committee is concerned about persistent challenges affecting military recruitment in Guam including extended wait times for medical screening at Military Entrance Processing Stations and limited facility capacity for the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB), which may delay or deter qualified applicants.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 31, 2027, that includes:

- (1) an assessment of current recruitment trends in Guam;
- (2) whether there are barriers to enlistment such as medical processing times and access to ASVAB assessments; and
- (3) recommendations on how to improve recruitment efficiency in Guam, including potential investment in medical screening capacity, increased ASVAB testing availability, and other measures to reduce processing delays.

#### Navy Command Readiness, Endurance, and Watchstanding

The committee recognizes the importance of managing fatigue as a determinant of operational safety and readiness for deployed naval forces. The committee notes the Navy's ongoing implementation of the Command Readiness, Endurance, and Watchstanding (CREW) program as a primary mechanism for quantifying and mitigating fatigue among sailors.

The committee encourages the Secretary of the Navy to accelerate fleetwide implementation of CREW, including the fielding of shipboard infrastructure and the integration of sensor technologies that enable continuous fatigue monitoring across a broad range of occupational specialties. The committee further encourages the Navy to ensure that aviators, maintainers, and other operational communities are fully incorporated into CREW as technical constraints are resolved.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Navy to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than May 1, 2027, on the status of CREW implementation, remaining technical or infrastructure gaps, and plans to expand participation across the fleet, and funding requirements and associated budget plans, including across the Future Years Defense Program, to support the scaling and sustainment of the CREW program.

#### Opt In Option for Applicants to Military Academies

In the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118-159), Congress required the Secretary of Defense to establish a system where an applicant to a military service academy could elect to have their information shared directly with a senior military college, in accordance with section 2111a of title 10, United States Code. Due to the increase in interest and competitiveness of receiving an appointment at a military service academy, the committee is concerned that many talented individuals are being lost to the military services. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of

Defense provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than April 1, 2027, on implementation of section 559c of Public Law 118-159. The report shall include the following:

- (1) the process for applicants to the military service academies to request their applications be shared with Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) and senior military colleges;
- (2) the number of applicants who have shared their information;
- (3) the number of applicants who chose ROTC scholarships or another senior military college;
- (4) the universities those applicants did attend instead of a military service college (if known); and
- (5) any recommended improvements to the program.

### Purple Heart Database

The committee recognizes the service and sacrifice of members of the Armed Forces who have been awarded the Purple Heart. The committee notes the challenges in verifying Purple Heart recipient status due to the decentralized and incomplete nature of certain military personnel records.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments, to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 31, 2027, regarding the feasibility and advisability of establishing a centralized database to document Purple Heart recipients. The briefing shall include:

- (1) an assessment of the availability of relevant records for servicemembers and veterans;
- (2) an assessment of privacy and security implications of including certain data elements such as full name, branch of service, date of the award, and operation associated with the award; and
- (3) any recommendations or identified challenges associated with establishing such a database.

### Space Force Continuous Fitness Assessment

The committee is aware of the holistic health approach adopted by the United States Space Force to promote year-round physical fitness, advance short and long-term health outcomes, and improve the operational readiness of the Space Force. The committee notes the Space Force's service-wide Continuous Fitness Assessment study, conducted in partnership with the Air Force Research Laboratory, was designed to determine if wearable fitness monitoring devices are an effective means of measuring health and physical fitness.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 31, 2027, that includes:

- (1) the results and findings of the Continuous Fitness Assessment study;

(2) a description of the advantages and challenges of technology-enabled continuous health monitoring;

(3) a description of data gathered by these devices and any privacy or security concerns;

(4) an assessment of the feasibility and advisability of implementing a standardized, digital health solution to provide continuous fitness and health monitoring; and

(5) recommendations regarding the adoption and implementation of wearable technologies to include proposed next steps and alignment with the Department of Defense digital health and force readiness initiatives.

#### Utilization of Intergovernmental Service Agreements to Expand Access to Child Care

The committee understands Joint Base Langley-Eustis is exploring the use of an Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA) authority to supplement on-installation child care capacity by partnering with a state university. The committee recognizes that child care is critical for force readiness and that utilizing this authority may enable Child Development Centers (CDC) to stabilize staffing, expand operational capacity and reduce wait lists.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments, to provide a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 31, 2027, regarding the feasibility and advisability of using IGSA's in such a capacity. The report shall include:

(1) potential benefits of utilizing IGSA's for increasing child care capacity for military families, including potential cost savings;

(2) any transparency concerns that arise from using IGSA's for this purpose;

(3) any challenges associated with the implementation of IGSA's for this purpose; and

(4) identification of any statutory or regulatory challenges that could inhibit such an approach.

#### Utilization of Rapid DNA Capabilities

The committee recognizes that forensic DNA supports a wide range of Department of Defense missions, including the investigation of crimes involving servicemembers, the identification of human remains, the confirmation of targets, and the development of investigative and operational intelligence across military and defense intelligence organizations. The committee is concerned that delays in DNA processing may be impeding investigations and understands that the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory (USACIL) may be experiencing a backlog in testing. Rapid DNA technology could help address this problem by allowing certain DNA samples to be processed more quickly and by reducing pressure on crime laboratories.

Therefore, the committee directs the Department of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments, to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than April 1, 2027 assessing the Department's use of forensic DNA and rapid DNA technology. The report shall include:

(1) an assessment of the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory's personnel requirements, funding, and resources needed to address forensic DNA criminal casework backlogs, reference sample testing, and maximize usable DNA profiles, particularly in sexual assault cases;

(2) recommendations for addressing any identified shortfalls, including estimated resource requirements;

(3) an overview of which Department of Defense entities, including commands, organizations, and laboratories, employ the use of Rapid DNA systems, including for investigative leads, identification of human remains, in-theater testing of evidence and detainees, and target verification;

(4) the extent to which those entities currently employ the use of Rapid DNA;

(5) the feasibility and advisability of expanding the Department's use of Rapid DNA technologies, including for use in criminal investigations; and

(6) whether Rapid DNA technologies are currently admissible in courts-martial, and if not, why not.

## TITLE VI—COMPENSATION AND OTHER PERSONNEL BENEFITS

### ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

#### Defense Finance and Account Service Payroll Reform Review

The committee notes the Department's efforts to modernize business processes and systems utilizing commercial best practices and solutions. The committee further notes that there exists a robust competitive market of commercial payroll providers who have the technical capability to assist the Department in retiring legacy systems, reducing cost, improving service to personnel, and improving auditability.

Therefore, the committee directs the Comptroller General to submit a report to the congressional defense committees by May 1, 2027, on the Department's efforts to integrate commercial payroll technologies into the operations of the Defense Finance and Account Service (DFAS). The report should include:

(1) a detailing of payroll systems currently used by DFAS;

(2) a listing of DFAS investments in payroll software over the past five fiscal years;

(3) a listing of current and planned DFAS investments in payroll software for the next five fiscal years;

(4) a detailed breakdown of past and current efforts to leverage commercially available payroll software; and

(5) identification of what barriers to acquisition of commercial payroll systems exist and recommendations to streamline the procurement and use of such systems.

### Review of Alaska Remote Assignment Travel Reimbursement and Potential Expansion

The committee notes that section 603 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) authorized Secretaries of the military departments to reimburse eligible members assigned to a permanent duty station (PDS) in Alaska for the cost of airfare to their home of record. This benefit was reauthorized in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 (H. Rept. 119-231) and was intended to improve the quality of life and mental health of servicemembers by reducing the financial burden of traveling from remote locations, like Alaska, to see family.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments, to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than April 1, 2027, on the following:

(1) the total number of members, broken down by rank and branch, who received reimbursement for airfare from Alaska to their home of record in fiscal years 2023 and 2026;

(2) the average out-of-pocket savings for members using the reimbursement and a comparison of these savings against the cost of airfare from major Alaska hubs during peak travel seasons;

(3) a qualitative assessment of how this travel benefit has impacted the morale and retention of members stationed in Alaska;

(4) a feasibility study on expanding this travel reimbursement to members assigned to other remote or isolated PDSs outside the contiguous United States (OCONUS); and

(5) an evaluation of the impact of allowing members to travel to a "designated location" other than their official home of record (such as a spouse's hometown or a primary caregiver's residence) if the cost is equal to, or less than, the cost to the home of record.

### Sailors Living Ashore Briefing

The committee directs the Secretary of the Navy to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than April 1, 2027, on how section 622 of the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118-159) authorization to pay Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for off-ship accommodations for junior enlisted is being utilized. The briefing shall include the following:

(1) utilization of authorization;

- (2) number of sailors living on ships ashore in fiscal year 2026;
- (3) barriers to extending the authority to additional sailors;
- (4) the amount of BAH given under Public Law 118-159 authorization for fiscal year 2025 and fiscal year 2026; and
- (5) additional recommendations to ensure no sailor lives ashore.

## TITLE VII—HEALTH CARE PROVISIONS

### ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

#### Air Force Suicide Prevention Training Programs

The committee remains concerned regarding persistently high rates of military suicide and emphasizes the need for a more modernized approach to prevention across the force. The committee recognizes the Department of the Air Force's efforts to incorporate immersive training tools and techniques into its Suicide Prevention Training programs, including virtual reality. Accordingly, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than April 1, 2027, on current Suicide Prevention Training programs. The report shall include:

- (1) the efficacy of current Suicide Prevention Training programs;
- (2) associated resource requirements for existing Suicide Prevention Training programs;
- (3) proposed Suicide Prevention Training programs incorporating immersive training tools and techniques, including virtual reality that can reduce manpower needs;
- (4) resources and time required to design, develop, implement, and evaluate programs using immersive training tools and techniques; and
- (5) any barriers to expanding programs using immersive training tools and techniques.

#### Artificial Intelligence Translation for Military Medical Missions

The committee notes that servicemembers, military families, and contractors stationed overseas frequently encounter life-threatening delays in medical care due to their inability to read foreign-language medical documentation, including discharge paperwork, diagnostic results, and treatment instructions. The committee directed the Secretary of Defense, in the committee report accompanying the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 (H. Rept. 119-231), to submit a report on the feasibility of deploying artificial intelligence (AI) translation tools with integrated human oversight at military medical facilities overseas. As of the date of this report, the Department has not submitted the required report. The committee remains concerned about this gap in overseas medical readiness and

believes that commercially available AI translation tools have matured to a point where deployment at military medical facilities abroad is operationally feasible.

The committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2027, on the status of the report required by the committee report accompanying the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 (H. Rept. 119-231) and the Department's assessment of AI translation capabilities for overseas military medical facilities. The briefing should include the following:

- (1) the status of the report required by H. Rept. 119-231, including the reason for any delay in submission and the expected submission date;
- (2) an assessment of currently available AI translation tools capable of handling medical documentation in the languages most commonly encountered at overseas military medical facilities, including evaluation of translation accuracy, security requirements, and human oversight protocols; and
- (3) the Department's recommendation for whether and how to field AI-assisted medical translation capabilities at overseas military medical facilities, including any required policy, authority, or resource changes.

#### Assessment of Emerging Clinical Research for Treatment-Resistant PTSD

The committee commends the rigorous, ethical clinical research conducted in accordance with federal law and force health protection standards to evaluate emerging treatments for service-connected mental health conditions where existing therapies have proven insufficient. The committee further believes that careful Department of Defense review of safety, dosing, and feasibility data is appropriate to inform future Department force health protection policy, medical readiness planning, and continuity of care during military-to-civilian transition.

Accordingly, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than February 1, 2027, assessing the data from the Phase I Passage and Phase II Fortitude Trials and its potential applicability to active-duty, reserve, and transitioning servicemembers. The report shall include the following:

- (1) a summary of the Phase I Passage Trial safety, dosing, and adverse event data reviewed and analyzed by the Department for applicability to active-duty, reserve/guard, and transitioning servicemember populations;
- (2) implications for force health protection, medical readiness, and suicide prevention strategies, including identification of any gaps in existing treatment options for active-duty, reserve/guard, and transitioning servicemembers;
- (3) legal and regulatory requirements for any potential expanded access pathway involving an investigational Schedule I substance, including coordination with the Food and Drug Administration and the Drug Enforcement Administration;
- (4) considerations for ensuring continuity of care for servicemembers transitioning from the Department of Defense to the Veterans Health

Administration, to include eligibility criteria, clinical treatment oversight, informed consent, safety monitoring, and adverse event reporting; and

(5) proposed timeline for potential pilot activities or expanded clinical research beginning in fiscal year 2027, and for any broader implementation thereafter, as appropriate.

### Combating Respiratory Infections

Indoor air quality affects tactical and operational readiness as well as threatens the quality of life of military personnel and their families. The committee believes it is important to better understand the prevalence and/or spread of pathogens indoors. As a result, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 31, 2027, on the following:

(1) status of ongoing efforts to assess the risk of indoor pathogens at military installations;

(2) how the Department assesses and quantifies the spread of pathogens indoors;

(3) how the Department evaluates the associated impact and risk on military personnel resident or working in military installation facilities where the pathogens exist;

(4) what tools and/or equipment is available to address poor indoor air quality issues, to include personal protective equipment, etc.; and

(5) whether the Department has the right resources and authorities to address indoor air quality issues at military installations.

### Comptroller General Study of Uniformed Services University Medical School

The committee remains concerned about challenges the Department of Defense faces recruiting and retaining the desired number of health professionals in critical specialties. As a medical school for the armed services, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences supports the readiness of the warfighter and the health of the military community by educating health care professionals, including providers, in addition to supporting cutting edge research. Therefore, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review of the Department's Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. The review should include:

(1) a description of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' structure and responsibilities, including any recent or planned changes and related budgetary resources;

(2) the extent to which the Department of Defense captures applicant and enrollment data and assesses the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' ability to meet its annual recruitment goals for medical students;

(3) the extent to which the Department assesses the quality and performance of enrolled medical students in the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences; and

(4) any additional matters or recommendations the Comptroller General deems appropriate.

The committee further directs the Comptroller General of the United States to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives by April 30, 2027, with the results of the review to follow in a report by December 31, 2027.

### Enhanced Readiness for Sudden Cardiac Arrest

The committee continues to monitor the Department's progress in mitigating non-traumatic deaths from sudden cardiac arrest during military training. The committee remains concerned that current regulations, which provide a framework for automated external defibrillator (AED) placement at routine training sites, do not fully address the risk.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the House Armed Services Committee not later than March 1, 2027, detailing the availability and placement of AEDs at organized training events, as well as servicemembers' proficiency in recognizing sudden cardiac arrest and delivering lifesaving care. The report shall include:

(1) a comprehensive list of organized training events, sporting competitions, and high-intensity tactical evaluations, such as the Best Warrior Competition, the Marine Recon Challenge, or the Best Ranger Competition, as well as biannual service physical fitness tests, where AEDs are required to be present under the current framework;

(2) for the events listed above, the average number of participants per event and the specific ratio of AED units to the total number of participants;

(3) a detailed accounting of the number of personnel present at these events who are currently certified or trained in:

(a) Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR);

(b) The operation of an AED; and

(c) The clinical identification of SCA symptoms in high-stress environments.

(4) an assessment of the time-to-shock standards during these events, specifically measuring the average time required for a responder to reach a collapsed servicemember with a functioning AED and apply it; and

(5) an assessment of CPR and AED training provided during Initial Entry Training (IET) and at subsequent individual training courses such as the Tactical Combat Casualty Care - All Service Members Course (TCCC-ASM) for all military services, including the percentage of the force maintaining current certification.

### Evaluation of the Mission 100 Wellness Program

The committee recognizes the 11th Airborne Division's efforts to reduce soldier suicidality and improve quality of life for soldiers and their families while stationed in Alaska through the Mission 100 program. Since its establishment in 2022, Mission 100 has proven to be a readiness multiplier maintaining 100 percent connection between soldiers and resources aimed at decreasing harmful behaviors through the integration of religious support, mental health, and integrated prevention advisory group initiatives.

To better understand the effectiveness of this program, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than April 1, 2027, on the following:

- (1) metrics used to measure the effectiveness of the program;
- (2) current staffing levels for the program and any associated shortages;
- (3) staff required to sustain the program at the 11th Airborne Division;
- (4) recommendations for improving the program; and
- (5) the feasibility of expanding the program to other commands or installations, including any barriers to such expansion.

#### Medical Readiness in the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands

The committee recognizes that section 735 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118-159) emphasizes medical readiness in the Indo-Pacific region, including access to foreign medical facilities during peacetime and wartime operations. However, the committee further recognizes that regional medical readiness is complex, particularly across the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI), including Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, as well as the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia, which collectively serve a population approaching 500,000 across geographically dispersed and resource-limited environments and occupy strategically significant locations along key Indo-Pacific operational corridors.

The committee is concerned that current authorities and planning frameworks do not adequately integrate USAPI civilian medical infrastructure into Indo-Pacific medical readiness and contingency planning, even though these civilian hospitals are likely to be the first to receive patients during mass casualty events involving both military and civilian populations.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives not later than May 1, 2027, addressing the following:

- (1) an evaluation of civilian hospitals and health systems located across the USAPI, including trauma capabilities, surge capacity, staffing limitations, medical evacuations, and infrastructure gaps relevant to mass casualty response;
- (2) an assessment of strategic infrastructure upgrades and capability development necessary to enable select USAPI civilian hospitals to achieve appropriate trauma center certification, including emergency surgical capacity,

blood banking, imaging, communications interoperability, and patient transfer protocols;

(3) an assessment of sustained trauma training and readiness programs for local medical professionals and civilian responders, including military-civilian joint exercises, tele-mentoring, and networking of partnerships; and

(4) recommendations for formally incorporating USAPI civilian hospitals into Department of Defense medical readiness, including mechanisms for certification, sustainment funding, and operational integration during contingency operations.

### Military Health System Structure and Health Care Delivery

The committee is concerned that the Military Health System (MHS) budget has not kept up with the cost of medical care in the United States. Funding for the MHS has been relatively flat since 2015, while the cost of health care across the United States has steadily increased over the same period. Additionally, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has noted in analyses of recent budget requests (such as the fiscal year 2025 budget request) that the Department of Defense's projected annual growth rate for MHS costs is often lower than CBO's projections for economy-wide medical cost growth.

The Defense Health Program (DHP) developed "Service Change Requests (SCR)" in fiscal year 2025 to address health care delivery if the MHS budget remained at existing levels and notified Congress of this change on March 9, 2026. The restructuring effort would convert three Medical Treatment Facilities (MTF) from inpatient hospitals to outpatient ambulatory care centers with surgical capabilities. According to the Department, these, and the rest of the changes in the SCR, are projected to generate 1,350 positions and \$77.0 million in commodity expenditures that would be redistributed to other MTFs. The Department of Defense alleges the total savings for the SCR restructure is approximately \$89.0 million; however, beneficiaries normally seen at the clinics and MTFs with reduced services will be redirected into the network, which is on average 33 percent more costly to the Department than the direct care system. The committee is concerned that the fiscal year 2027 budget request, nor this SCR, adequately address the resource challenges facing the MHS including, access to care, personnel shortages, facility degradation, supply chain inefficiencies, and medical readiness. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services not later than April 1, 2027, on the following:

(1) an analysis of impacts to services at an MTF when any uniform medical provider permanently changes station without a uniform, civilian, contractor medical provider backfill;

(2) a budget request that reflects the obligation to provide medical care to all beneficiaries within the laws and regulations with respect to access and quality;

(3) the utilization of enhanced appointment and compensation authorities (such as 1599c of title 10, United States Code), to recruit and retain civilian employees;

(4) the number of positions required to fully staff the current direct care footprint and needs of the system including the number, position, and type: civilian, military, or contractors;

(5) an analysis of the managed care network's ability to absorb any beneficiary that cannot be serviced by the direct care system to include the exact elements that go into cost analysis between the direct care and managed care system;

(6) an analysis of the success by the Defense Health Agency to reattract beneficiaries to use MHS facilities over the managed care system since launching the effort in December 2023;

(7) the status of efforts to close all GAO recommendations from the July 21, 2025 report: Defense Health Care: Information Needed to Improve Monitoring of Military Personnel Staffing at Medical Facilities, GAO-25-106988;

(8) the status of efforts to close all GAO recommendations from the April 2025 report: Defense Healthcare Actions Needed to Address Long-Standing Management Challenges with Medical Facilities, GAO-25-107432; and

(9) the status of efforts to close all recommendations from the December 8, 2025 report: Audit of the Defense Health Agency's Management of Military Medical Treatment Facilities Outside the Continental United States in Meeting Access to Primary Care Standards, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Defense, Report No. DODIG-2026-025.

### Military Surgical Readiness and Combat Casualty Care Capacity

The committee is concerned that declining surgical case volumes within the Military Health System may be reducing the ability of military surgeons to maintain proficiency in deployment-relevant trauma and damage-control procedures. The committee notes that recent operational planning scenarios involving large-scale combat operations indicate casualty volumes that may significantly exceed those experienced during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

The committee further notes that partnerships with civilian level-1 trauma centers were critical to maintaining combat casualty care proficiency during the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. The committee is aware that such partnerships currently exist but are inconsistent across the military services and are not integrated into a Department-wide readiness framework.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives not later than March 1, 2027, on the readiness of the military surgical force. The report shall include the following:

- (1) specialty-specific annual surgical case volume data for active and reserve component surgeons;
- (2) identification of minimum procedural thresholds required to maintain deployment-relevant readiness;
- (3) the percentage of military surgeons meeting such thresholds;
- (4) identification of operational risks to combatant command war plans associated with surgical readiness shortfalls;
- (5) an assessment of the adequacy of current forward resuscitative surgical team manning levels;
- (6) the extent to which the Department relies on civilian trauma partnerships to maintain readiness;
- (7) a plan to expand partnerships with civilian level-1 trauma centers, including assignment durations and legal authorities required;
- (8) an assessment of the readiness and utilization of reserve component surgeons for large-scale combat operations;
- (9) the role of the Joint Trauma System in pre-deployment certification of surgical teams;
- (10) recommendations for improving wartime medical mobilization of military and civilian surgeons; and
- (11) an assessment of whether current Military Health System structure supports or degrades combat casualty care readiness.

#### Optometry Services at Military Treatment Facilities

The committee recognizes that eye health and military optometrists play an important role in military readiness. The committee notes that more than 10 states currently permit optometrists to become licensed in certain laser surgeries and that all 24 United States based optometry schools provide training in laser procedures. The committee is aware that military optometrists in military treatment facilities do not perform these laser surgeries and are therefore not being utilized to their full potential. Therefore, the committee directs the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than April 1, 2027, on the following:

- (1) what regulations or policies prohibit optometrists from performing laser procedures within medical treatment facilities;
- (2) what resources and equipment would the Department need to allow optometrists to do these procedures within a medical treatment facility;
- (3) would there be an increase in the readiness of the military optometrist and the readiness of military personnel if the Department permitted optometrists to do laser procedures;
- (4) if so, what are the benefits to both the optometrist and the military personnel; and
- (5) any additional information the Department deems relevant.

#### Patient Safety during Sensitive Medical Exams and Procedures

The Defense Health Agency (DHA) manages over 700 military medical treatment facilities worldwide where it delivers healthcare to servicemembers and their families, military retirees, and other eligible beneficiaries. DHA has stated its commitment to patients' rights to respectful treatment, privacy and security, and to receive care in a safe environment, among other things. However, recent high-profile investigations have revealed accusations of sexual misconduct committed by military doctors against patients in these facilities. In response, DHA launched an internal review to ensure accountability and review systemic safeguards, clinical protocols, supervision mechanisms, and reporting and complaint procedures. DHA has taken additional steps to ensure patient safety, such as issuing a memo clarifying its requirement that all patients and healthcare staff have the right to request a chaperone for any physical exam or medical encounter, and that a chaperone must be offered prior to any sensitive exam.

Therefore, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to review efforts within the Department of Defense to address patient safety, including the extent to which the Department has developed and implemented policies and procedures to ensure patient safety and prevent, identify, and respond to sexual misconduct by healthcare providers in military medical treatment facilities; the extent and nature of the Department's oversight of efforts to ensure patient safety and prevent, identify, and respond to sexual misconduct in military medical treatment facilities; and the measures the Department is employing to assess the effectiveness of efforts to ensure patient safety and prevent, identify, and respond to sexual misconduct in military medical treatment facilities.

The committee further directs the Comptroller General to provide a briefing on the findings to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 31, 2027.

### Perioperative Care within the Military Healthcare System

The committee recognizes that surgical and procedural services furnished under chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, are a core component of the Military Health System (MHS) and are essential to sustaining beneficiary care, force health protection, and the medical readiness of the Armed Forces. The committee further recognizes that perioperative care, encompassing the full continuum of care provided before, during, and after surgical or invasive procedures, directly affects clinical outcomes, patient safety, operational capability, and the readiness of military medical personnel. Accordingly, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than December 31, 2027, on the delivery, oversight, effectiveness, and readiness implications of perioperative care across the MHS. The report shall include:

- (1) an assessment of the current state of perioperative care delivery across military medical treatment facilities and within the TRICARE network, including variability in access, capacity, and clinical throughput;

(2) an assessment of the workforce, infrastructure, and digital systems that support perioperative services, including identification of capability gaps affecting care delivery in deployed, austere, or far-forward operational environments;

(3) an analysis of infrastructure and technology platforms supporting perioperative services, including electronic health records, operating room management systems, sterile processing systems, data analytics and performance monitoring tools, interoperability with private-sector partners and referral networks, and any other technology platforms the Secretary of Defense determines appropriate;

(4) a description of clinical quality assurance programs, patient safety practices, credentialing and privileging oversight, and performance monitoring activities applicable to perioperative care, including those conducted pursuant to section 1094 of title 10, United States Code, and other relevant statutory authorities; and

(5) an evaluation of clinical quality and patient safety outcomes, including trends in adverse events, compliance with established safety protocols, benchmarking against appropriate civilian health systems, and the adequacy of data collection, reporting, and transparency mechanisms.

#### Plan for Testing for Helicobacter Pylori for Certain Members of the Armed Forces

The committee is aware Active Duty servicemembers are at increased risk of contracting Helicobacter pylori (*H. pylori*), especially if they are deployed outside the continental United States in areas in which it is highly prevalent, or if they are subject to crowded living conditions. The vast majority of stomach cancers are caused by *H. pylori*. The bacteria also cause ulcers, gastritis and MALT lymphoma. Many people do not have any symptoms until an advanced disease state. Research has shown that approximately one fourth of the U.S. veteran population may be at risk for some consequence of chronic *H. pylori* infection. However, studies show that when *H. pylori* are detected through testing and then eradicated with antibiotics, the risk of developing stomach cancer and other diseases drops significantly. The committee is also aware that current recommendations are that all patients with *H. pylori* infection should be treated, and re-tested to confirm successful eradication, and that adults living with those infected need to be tested.

Therefore, the committee directs the Director of the Defense Health Agency to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than January 31, 2027, on the following:

(1) current Armed Services adherence to clinical guidelines to detect and treat *H. pylori* in Active Duty servicemembers, including the testing, treatment and retesting protocols and modalities used;

(2) a plan, cost estimate and feasibility study for implementing *H. pylori* testing and treatment for Active Duty servicemembers during accession physicals for the Armed Forces, and for members of the Armed Forces deployed to countries

with high rates of *H. pylori* or subjected to crowded living conditions, such as ship berthing; and

(3) an estimate of costs for implementing a program for conducting testing using breath and stool-based methods.

### Results of Prohibition of Painful Animal Research

Section 732 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 (Public Law 119-60) prohibited the Department of Defense from conducting or supporting painful research on dogs and cats. The committee also recognizes the Department of Defense's other efforts to eliminate harmful dog and cat research, including the implementation of a ban by the Secretary of the Navy. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 30, 2027, that includes, at a minimum, the following:

(1) a list of all grants and contracts supporting painful dog and cat research that were ended or modified because of the funding prohibition in Public Law 119-60;

(2) a list of all grants and contracts supporting dog and cat research that were ended or modified because of other Department-wide efforts since January 27, 2025;

(3) an estimate of taxpayer dollars saved by these programmatic changes;

(4) an estimate of how much dog and cat use was avoided by these programmatic changes;

(5) a list of any waivers granted per section 732 of Public Law 119-60, including the detailed justification for each; and

(6) an assessment of all Department-wide policies governing the use of dogs and cats in research.

### Suicide Analytic Variable Evaluation System

The committee notes the Department of the Air Force's ongoing efforts to address suicide, including the development of the Suicide Analytic Variable Evaluation System (SAVES), an artificial intelligence-enabled capability intended to identify and mitigate suicide risk among servicemembers through advanced data analysis. To better understand the SAVES program's current performance, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and House Committee on Armed Services not later than January 1, 2027, that includes:

(1) the current status of SAVES, including key milestones achieved in its development and integration;

(2) the metrics and methodologies used by the Department of the Air Force to assess the effectiveness of SAVES, including measures of accuracy, reliability, and impact on suicide prevention outcomes;

- (3) costs associated with the program, including development and sustainment costs;
- (4) any barriers to expansion of SAVES, including any technical, legal, ethical, or data-sharing constraints; and
- (5) a description of how SAVES integrates with and supports existing suicide prevention efforts.

### Uniform Formulary Beneficiary Advisory Panel

Congress created the Uniform Formulary Beneficiary Advisory Panel (BAP) in section 1074g(c) of title 10, United States Code, to provide independent advice and recommendations on the development of the Tricare Uniform Formulary. The committee notes that on March 7, 2025, the Department of Defense paused all Defense Advisory Committees to conduct a 45-day review to ensure that each advisory committee's efforts align with strategic priorities and the President's goals. On September 8, 2025, the Department of Defense issued a memorandum that the BAP was authorized to resume operations in Phase I pending the approval and appointment of new members by the Department of Defense. As of April 2026, the BAP has not resumed operations and due to the lack of membership. The panel has made zero recommendations during fiscal year (FY) 2025 to address the FY 2025 Department of Defense Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee recommendations to the Uniform Formulary, implementation timelines, and prior authorization criteria. The committee is concerned that any further delay in reinstating the BAP has resulted in denying new therapies from advancing and impacted servicemembers, families, and beneficiaries from getting the care and treatment they need. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than December 31, 2026, detailing the following:

- (1) the number of members of the BAP who have been vetted by the Department of Defense for appointment on the BAP;
- (2) the number of members who have been appointed to the BAP;
- (3) the number of individuals who still need to be vetted and appointed to the BAP;
- (4) a detailed cause for the delay in reconstituting the BAP;
- (5) a list of future BAP meeting dates;
- (6) a detailed plan on how to address the backlog of therapeutics that the BAP needs to address; and
- (7) the effects on beneficiaries who were unable to obtain needed therapeutics.

### Wellness Applications Expansion Report

The committee notes that the Defense Health Agency does not have the ability to meet current demand of behavioral health referrals through traditional networks. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination

with the Director of the Defense Health Agency (DHA) and the Service Surgeons General, to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2027, on the following:

(1) how the expansion of tele-behavioral health, using both military providers and vetted third-party digital health platforms, can assist by bypassing geographic limitations of physical specialty clinics, reducing the administrative burden on Military Medical Treatment Facilities (MTFs) referral management centers;

(2) comprehensive strategy to expand tele-behavioral health services to servicemembers;

(3) options for making tele-behavioral health available to servicemembers deployed or underway;

(4) current pilot programs being conducted and data associated, including estimated impact on number of mental health referrals and any cost savings or increase; and

(5) other considerations related to providing tele-behavioral health services.

## TITLE XI—CIVILIAN PERSONNEL MATTERS

### ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

#### Minimum Firefighter Manning Requirements on Army Installations

The committee is concerned about the Department of Defense's compliance with section 388 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) which established minimum staffing requirements for firefighters. These requirements are critical to ensuring the safety of military installations, personnel, and assets.

An April 2025 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report found that the Department has not developed an enterprise-wide strategy to address civilian firefighter staffing gaps. The GAO recommended each service develop and implement a Fire and Emergency Services civilian strategic human capital plan, assess the current state of its civilian firefighter workforce, and forecast future requirements. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments, to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2027, on the following:

(1) the timeline for each service to achieve compliance with section 388 of Public Law 117-263 and GAO recommendations;

(2) the specific plans each service will implement to achieve compliance; and

(3) current mitigation efforts.

## TITLE XVII—OTHER DEFENSE MATTERS

### ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

#### Tobacco Products Sold on Military Installations

The committee commends the Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) for conducting a comprehensive compliance review of all electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) products supplied at MCX locations. Pursuant to Federal tobacco regulations, including the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301), in order to legally market a new tobacco product, a company must receive a written marketing order from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Companies may receive marketing authorization through one of three pathways: a Premarket Tobacco Product Application (PMTA), a determination of substantial equivalence, or an exemption from substantial equivalence requests. The committee is aware that to legally market a new tobacco product through the PMTA pathway, a company must receive a written Marketing Granted Order (MGO) from the FDA.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with 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, 2027. The report should include:

- (1) the process to determine which tobacco products, particularly ENDS products, are sold on military installations, to include any coordination with the FDA;
- (2) any review process to ensure that tobacco products currently available for sale on military installations comply with federal regulations; and
- (3) a list of any tobacco products removed from sale due to noncompliance, disaggregated by installation.