

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a pilot program to hire transitioning servicemembers to be Border Patrol agents.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a pilot program to hire transitioning servicemembers to be Border Patrol agents.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Border Pa-
5 trol Training Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. BORDER PATROL SKILLBRIDGE PILOT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
8 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
9 Homeland Security, in collaboration with the Secretary of

1 Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall estab-
2 lish an interdepartmental pilot program through which the
3 Department of Homeland Security shall use the Depart-
4 ment of Defense SkillBridge Program to train and hire
5 transitioning servicemembers as Border Patrol agents for
6 U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

7 (b) EMPLOYMENT SKILLS TRAINING.—In carrying
8 out the pilot program established pursuant to subsection
9 (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security, in collaboration
10 with the Secretary of Defense, shall use the authorities
11 available under section 1143 of title 10, United States
12 Code, to train and facilitate the transition of members of
13 the armed forces to service as Border Patrol agents.

14 **SEC. 3. ANNUAL REPORTS.**

15 Not later than 1 year after the pilot program is estab-
16 lished pursuant to section 2(a), and annually thereafter
17 until the date referred to in section 4, the Secretary of
18 Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of
19 Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall sub-
20 mit a report to the Committee on Homeland Security and
21 Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on
22 Armed Services of the Senate, the Committee on Veterans'
23 Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Secu-
24 rity of the House of Representatives, the Committee on
25 Armed Services of the House of Representatives, and the

1 Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that includes for the reporting period—

3 (1) the number of participants in the pilot pro-
4 gram;

5 (2) the number of eligible participants who ap-
6 plied to be part of the pilot program; and

7 (3) the number of pilot program participants
8 who are—

9 (A) members the armed forces;

10 (B) reserve members of the armed forces;

11 (C) commissioned officers or non-commis-
12 sioned officers;

13 (D) enlisted members of the armed forces;

14 (E) veterans;

15 (F) spouses of such members of the armed
16 forces or veterans; and

17 (G) dependents of such members of the
18 armed forces or veterans.

19 **SEC. 4. SUNSET DATE.**

20 The pilot program established pursuant to section 2
21 shall be terminated on the date that is 5 years after the
22 date on which such program is established.