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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to administer a pilot program to employ veterans in positions that relate to conservation and resource management activities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LAMB introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to administer a pilot program to employ veterans in positions that relate to conservation and resource management activities.

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. PILOT PROGRAM TO EMPLOY VETERANS IN PO-**
4 **SITIONS RELATING TO CONSERVATION AND**
5 **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans
7 Affairs and the Secretaries concerned shall jointly estab-

1 lish a pilot program under which veterans are employed
2 by the Federal Government in positions that relate to the
3 conservation and resource management activities of the
4 Department of the Interior and the Department of Agri-
5 culture.

6 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary of Veterans
7 Affairs shall administer the pilot program under sub-
8 section (a).

9 (c) POSITIONS.—The Secretaries concerned shall—

10 (1) identify vacant positions in the respective
11 Departments of the Secretaries that are appropriate
12 to fill using the pilot program under subsection (a);
13 and

14 (2) to the extent practicable, fill such positions
15 using the pilot program.

16 (d) APPLICATION OF CIVIL SERVICE LAWS.—A vet-
17 eran employed under the pilot program under subsection
18 (a) shall be treated as an employee as defined by section
19 2105 of title 5, United States Code.

20 (e) BEST PRACTICES FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS.—
21 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish guide-
22 lines containing best practices for departments and agen-
23 cies of the Federal Government that carry out programs
24 to employ veterans who are transitioning from service in
25 the Armed Forces. Such guidelines shall include—

1 (1) lessons learned under the Warrior Training
2 Advancement Course of the Department of Veterans
3 Affairs; and

4 (2) methods to realize cost savings based on
5 such lessons learned.

6 (f) PARTNERSHIP.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
7 fairs, the Secretaries concerned, and the Secretary of De-
8 fense may enter into a partnership to include the pilot pro-
9 gram under subsection (a) as part of the Skillbridge pro-
10 gram under section 1143 of title 10, United States Code.

11 (g) REPORTS.—

12 (1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 60 days
13 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
14 retary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretaries con-
15 cerned shall jointly submit to the appropriate con-
16 gressional committees a report on the pilot program
17 under subsection (a), including—

18 (A) a description of how the pilot program
19 will be carried out in a manner to reduce the
20 unemployment of veterans; and

21 (B) any recommendations for legislative
22 actions to improve the pilot program.

23 (2) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than one
24 year after the date on which the pilot program under
25 subsection (a) commences, the Secretary of Veterans

1 Affairs and the Secretaries concerned shall jointly
2 submit to the appropriate congressional committees
3 a report on the implementation of the pilot program.

4 (3) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 30 days
5 after the date on which the pilot program under sub-
6 section (a) is completed, the Secretary of Veterans
7 Affairs and the Secretaries concerned shall jointly
8 submit to the appropriate congressional committees
9 a report on the pilot program that includes the fol-
10 lowing:

11 (A) The number of veterans who applied to
12 participate in the pilot program.

13 (B) The number of such veterans employed
14 under the pilot program.

15 (C) The number of veterans identified in
16 subparagraph (B) who transitioned to full-time
17 positions with the Federal Government after
18 participating in the pilot program.

19 (D) Any other information the Secretaries
20 determine appropriate with respect to meas-
21 uring the effectiveness of the pilot program.

22 (h) DURATION.—The authority to carry out the pilot
23 program under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date
24 that is two years after the date on which the pilot program
25 commences.

1 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 (1) The term “appropriate congressional com-
3 mittees” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs,
5 the Committee on Agriculture, and the Com-
6 mittee on Natural Resources of the House of
7 Representatives; and

8 (B) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs,
9 the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
10 Forestry, and the Committee on Energy and
11 Natural Resources of the Senate.

12 (2) The term “Secretary concerned” means—

13 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture with re-
14 spect to matters regarding the National Forest
15 System and the Department of Agriculture; and

16 (B) the Secretary of the Interior with re-
17 spect to matters regarding the National Park
18 System and the Department of the Interior.