

S 951

Hiring Heroes Act of 2011

Congress: 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: May 11, 2011

Current Status: By Senator Murray from Committee on Veterans' Affairs filed written report. Report No. 112-36.

Latest Action: By Senator Murray from Committee on Veterans' Affairs filed written report. Report No. 112-36. (Jul 18, 2011)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/senate-bill/951>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]

Party: Democratic • **State:** WA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (40 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Akaka, Daniel K. [D-HI]	D · HI		May 11, 2011
Sen. Baucus, Max [D-MT]	D · MT		May 11, 2011
Sen. Begich, Mark [D-AK]	D · AK		May 11, 2011
Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]	D · CA		May 11, 2011
Sen. Brown, Scott P. [R-MA]	R · MA		May 11, 2011
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		May 11, 2011
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		May 11, 2011
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		May 11, 2011
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		May 11, 2011
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		May 11, 2011
Sen. Rockefeller, John D., IV [D-WV]	D · WV		May 11, 2011
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		May 11, 2011
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		May 11, 2011
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		May 12, 2011
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		May 16, 2011
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		May 17, 2011
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		May 17, 2011
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		May 26, 2011
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Jun 6, 2011
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Jun 9, 2011
Sen. Snowe, Olympia J. [R-ME]	R · ME		Jun 9, 2011
Sen. Kerry, John F. [D-MA]	D · MA		Jun 20, 2011
Sen. Levin, Carl [D-MI]	D · MI		Jun 20, 2011
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Jun 21, 2011
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		Jun 22, 2011
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jun 27, 2011
Sen. Kohl, Herb [D-WI]	D · WI		Jul 7, 2011
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Jul 11, 2011
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jul 26, 2011
Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]	D · FL		Jul 27, 2011
Sen. Lautenberg, Frank R. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Aug 2, 2011
Sen. Nelson, Ben [D-NE]	D · NE		Aug 2, 2011
Sen. Hagan, Kay R. [D-NC]	D · NC		Sep 6, 2011
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Sep 26, 2011
Sen. Johnson, Tim [D-SD]	D · SD		Oct 3, 2011
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Oct 6, 2011
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Nov 7, 2011
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Nov 7, 2011
Sen. Pryor, Mark L. [D-AR]	D · AR		Nov 7, 2011
Sen. Landrieu, Mary L. [D-LA]	D · LA		Nov 8, 2011

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Jul 7, 2011

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
112 HR 1941	Identical bill	Jul 15, 2011: Committee Hearings Held.

Hiring Heroes Act of 2011- (Sec. 2) Amends the Wounded Warriors Act to extend through 2014 the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide the same rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of the Armed Forces (members) with severe injuries or illnesses as are provided to veterans.

(Sec. 3) Authorizes the VA Secretary to make payments to employers to provide on-job training to veterans who have not been rehabilitated to the point of employability.

(Sec. 4) Entitles certain veterans with service-connected disabilities who have already completed a VA rehabilitation program and have exhausted their rights to unemployment benefits to participation in an additional VA rehabilitation program. Limits the latter program to 24 months. Makes the 12-year post-service period of eligibility for a VA rehabilitation program inapplicable with respect to the additional program.

(Sec. 5) Directs the VA Secretary to follow-up (at least once every six months for a year and a half) on the employment status of veterans who participate in a VA rehabilitation program.

(Sec. 6) Requires (current law encourages) participation by eligible members in the Transitional Assistance Program (TAP) of the Department of Defense (DOD). Requires (under current law, authorizes) the provision of preseparation counseling to members whose discharge or release is anticipated.

(Sec. 7) Directs the Secretary of Labor to follow-up (at least three times over a one-year period) on the employment status of members who complete their participation in the TAP. Requires such Secretary to contract for TAP audits, to be conducted at least every three years. Requires audit reports.

(Sec. 8) Directs the VA Secretary to award grants to up to three nonprofit organizations under a collaborative veterans' training, mentoring, and placement program for eligible veterans seeking employment. Requires program reports from such Secretary to the congressional veterans committees. Authorizes appropriations.

(Sec. 9) Directs the Secretaries of DOD, VA, and Labor to jointly contract with an organization or entity to conduct a study to identify any equivalences between the skills developed by members through military occupational specialties and the qualifications required for various positions of civilian employment in the private sector. Requires the organization or entity chosen to report study results to such Secretaries, who shall transmit the report to Congress. Requires TAP participants to receive individualized assessments of civilian positions for which they may be qualified based on the study. Authorizes the Secretaries of VA and Labor to use the assessments for employment-related assistance in an individual's transition from military service to civilian life.

(Sec. 10) Authorizes the head of an executive agency to appoint an honorably discharged member to a position in the civil service, without regard to specified civil service examination, certification, and appointment provisions, if such individual is otherwise qualified. Requires executive agencies to establish programs to provide employment assistance to members being separated from active duty.

(Sec. 11) Directs the Secretary of Labor to carry out an outreach program to provide employment assistance to individuals recently separated from service who have been receiving assistance under the Unemployment Compensation for Ex-servicemembers program for more than 105 days.

(Sec. 12) Authorizes the DOD Secretary to carry out a two-year pilot program to assess the feasibility of providing work

experience to certain members who are on terminal leave. Requires such Secretary to report to the defense and veterans committees on the pilot program.

(Sec. 13) Requires (under current law, authorizes) a VA demonstration project on the credentialing and licensing of veterans for the purpose of facilitating the seamless transition of members from service on active duty to civilian employment. Reduces from 10 to 5 the minimum number of occupational specialties to be considered under the project. Limits the project to two years. Directs the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training to carry out a study comparing costs incurred by the DOD Secretary in training members for military occupational specialties with costs incurred by the Secretaries of VA and Labor in providing employment-related assistance to veterans. Directs the Assistant Secretary to report study results to Congress.

(Sec. 14) Allows the Secretaries of DOD and Homeland Security to allow members eligible for assistance under a DOD employment, job training, and transitional assistance program to participate in an apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship program that provides members with education, training, and services necessary to transition to employment that leads to economic self-sufficiency.

(Sec. 15) Extends through FY2014 VA authority to collect a loan fee for certain subsequent VA-guaranteed housing loans. Revises loan fee amounts.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 18, 2011:** By Senator Murray from Committee on Veterans' Affairs filed written report. Report No. 112-36.
- **Jul 7, 2011:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Reported by Senator Murray with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Jul 7, 2011:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 95.
- **Jun 29, 2011:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Jun 8, 2011:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 112-116.
- **May 11, 2011:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 11, 2011:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S2881-2882)
- **May 11, 2011:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (text of measure as introduced: CR S2882-2884)