

S 134

A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a retraining assistance program for unemployed veterans, and for other purposes.

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jan 28, 2021

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (Jan 28, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/134>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]

Party: Republican • **State:** KS • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (8 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT] | D · MT | | Jan 28, 2021 |
| Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME] | R · ME | | Feb 24, 2021 |
| Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE] | D · DE | | Feb 24, 2021 |
| Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH] | D · NH | | Mar 4, 2021 |
| Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC] | R · NC | | Mar 4, 2021 |
| Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS] | R · MS | | Mar 15, 2021 |
| Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR] | R · AR | | Apr 20, 2021 |
| Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV] | D · NV | | May 13, 2021 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|-----------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Veterans' Affairs Committee | Senate | Referred To | Jan 28, 2021 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|--------------|--|
| 117 HR 637 | Related bill | Mar 16, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. |
| 117 HR 1319 | Related bill | Mar 11, 2021: Became Public Law No: 117-2. |

This bill addresses the employment and retraining of veterans, specifically during the COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) public health emergency.

The bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to implement a program under which the VA must provide up to 12 months of nontransferable retraining assistance (including a housing stipend) to up to 35,000 eligible veterans for the pursuit of a specified program of education. Under the bill, an eligible veteran is an individual who, among other requirements, is unemployed due to COVID-19. Veterans who receive retraining assistance may only use such assistance to pursue specified programs, including those designed to provide training for high-demand occupations.

The bill requires the Department of Labor to conduct outreach to veterans participating in the program to notify them of employment placement services and facilitate employment placement. Additionally, the VA must enter into a memorandum of understanding with one or more qualified nonprofit organizations to facilitate the employment of veterans participating in the program.

The Government Accountability Office must report on the outcomes and effectiveness of the retraining assistance program.

The program will terminate 21 months after the date of the enactment of this bill.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 28, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 28, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.