

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8925

To require the Secretary of Defense to align the Job Corps program with the defense industrial base, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 20, 2026

Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Mr. EZELL, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. DELUZIO, Ms. TENNEY, Ms. GOODLANDER, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. BACON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. FITZPATRICK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense to align the Job Corps program with the defense industrial base, and for other purposes.

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 “Job Corps and Skilled
5 Defense Workforce Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ALIGNMENT OF JOB CORPS WITH THE DEFENSE IN-**
2 **DUSTRIAL BASE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, acting
4 through the National Imperative for Industrial Skills pro-
5 gram of the Department of Defense (or a successor pro-
6 gram), shall—

7 (1) ensure that military recruits who are ineli-
8 gible for enlistment as a result of the requirements
9 of section 520 of title 10, United States Code, are
10 made aware of opportunities to enroll in the Job
11 Corps program authorized under subtitle C of title
12 I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
13 (29 U.S.C. 3191 et seq.) to receive training that—

14 (A) prepares enrollees for employment as
15 skilled industrial workers in the defense indus-
16 trial base in the State or local area in which a
17 Job Corps center is located and, to the extent
18 practicable, in the State or local area in which
19 enrollees intend to seek employment after grad-
20 uation; and

21 (B) includes programs of advanced career
22 training described in section 148(c) of the
23 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (20
24 U.S.C. 3198(c)) at existing Job Corps centers
25 or at new Job Corps centers in close proximity

1 to a shipyard or other defense industrial base
2 suppliers; and

3 (2) address shortages of skilled industrial work-
4 ers in the defense industrial base by supporting the
5 Job Corps program in offering training that aligns
6 with the needs of the defense industrial base, includ-
7 ing through investments in curricula development,
8 equipment, and facilities.

9 (b) EXTENSION OF SHIPBUILDING WORKFORCE DE-
10 VELOPMENT SPECIAL INCENTIVE TO JOB CORPS.—

11 (1) Section 8696(b)(2) of title 10, United
12 States Code is amended by adding at the end the
13 following:

14 “(G) The Job Corps program authorized
15 under subtitle C of title I of the Workforce In-
16 novation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3191
17 et seq.) or an operator of a Job Corps center
18 described in section 147 of the Workforce Inno-
19 vation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
20 3197).”.

21 (2) Section 8696(c)(2) of title 10, United
22 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
23 following:

24 “(H) The Job Corps program authorized
25 under subtitle C of title I of the Workforce In-

1 novation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3191
2 et seq.).”.

3 (c) **JOB CORPS CONFORMING REFORMS.**—Section
4 158(f) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
5 (29 U.S.C. 3208) is amended—

6 (1) by striking “may accept on behalf of the
7 Job Corps or individual Job Corps centers charitable
8 donations of cash” and inserting “(or the Secretary
9 of Agriculture, as appropriate) on behalf of the Job
10 Corps, or individual Job Corps Center, on behalf of
11 such center, may accept grants, charitable donations
12 of cash ,”; and

13 (2) by inserting at the end the following: “Not-
14 withstanding sections 501(b) and 522 of title 40,
15 United States Code, any property acquired by a Job
16 Corps center shall be directly transferred, on a non-
17 reimbursable basis, to the Secretary.”.

18 (d) **OPERATIONS.**—

19 (1) **LOCAL AUTHORITY TO REALIGN TRADES.**—
20 Section 151 of the Workforce Innovation and Oppor-
21 tunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3201) is amended by adding
22 at the end the following:

23 “(d) **LOCAL AUTHORITY.**—Subject to the limitations
24 of the budget approved by the Secretary for a Job Corps

1 center, the operator of a Job Corps center shall have the
2 authority, without prior approval from the Secretary, to—

3 “(1) hire staff and provide staff professional de-
4 velopment;

5 “(2) set terms and enter into agreements with
6 Federal, State, or local educational partners, such as
7 secondary schools, institutions of higher education,
8 child development centers, units of Junior Reserve
9 Officer Training Corps programs established under
10 section 2031 of title 10, United States Code, or em-
11 ployers; and

12 “(3) engage with and educate stakeholders (in-
13 cluding eligible applicants for the Job Corps) about
14 Job Corps operations, selection procedures, and ac-
15 tivities.”.

16 (2) STREAMLINED ENROLLMENT OF VETERANS
17 AND MILITARY RECRUITS INTO THE DEFENSE IN-
18 DUSTRIAL BASE.—Section 144(b) of the Workforce
19 Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
20 3194(b)) is amended—

21 (A) in the heading, by inserting “**AND**
22 **CERTAIN OTHER ARMED FORCES MEM-**
23 **BERS**” after “**VETERANS**”; and

24 (B) by inserting “or a member of the
25 Armed Forces eligible for preseparation coun-

1 seling under section 1142 of title 10, United
2 States Code” after “a veteran”.

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