

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. _____

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide greater opportunities for veterans to pursue education programs involving emerging technologies, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide greater opportunities for veterans to pursue education programs involving emerging technologies, 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 “Improving Emerging
5 Tech Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES IN HIGH**
7 **TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3699C of title 38, United
9 States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in the section heading by striking “**High**
2 **technology**” and inserting “**High technology**
3 **and emerging technology**”;

4 (2) by striking “high technology” and inserting
5 “high technology or emerging technology” each place
6 such term appears; and

7 (3) in subsection (c)(4) by adding at the end
8 the following new subparagraph:

9 “(E) Such criteria shall also identify which tech-
10 nologies of critical importance, such as artificial intel-
11 ligence and semiconductor manufacturing, shall be treated
12 as emerging technologies for purposes of this section.”.

13 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
14 at the beginning of chapter 36 of such title is amended
15 by striking the item relating to section 3699D and insert-
16 ing the following new item:

“3699C. High technology and emerging technology program.”.

17 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 3680A of
18 title 38, United States Code, is amended in each of sub-
19 sections (a)(4)(B) and (d)(8) by striking “high tech-
20 nology” and inserting “high technology or emerging tech-
21 nology”.

1 **SEC. 3. CRITICAL STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS FOR**
2 **EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.**

3 (a) PARTNERSHIPS REQUIRED.—The Secretary of
4 Veterans Affairs, in partnership with critical stakeholders,
5 shall—

6 (1) identify specific types of industries and oc-
7 cupations that, as a result of emerging technologies,
8 are likely to have high employment and growth po-
9 tential for individuals with appropriate education,
10 training, or skills; and

11 (2) identify courses of education that help vet-
12 erans acquire the appropriate education, training, or
13 skills to become employed in such industries and oc-
14 cupations.

15 (b) PROMINENT DISSEMINATION.—

16 (1) SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—The
17 Secretary shall ensure that such emerging tech-
18 nologies, and such courses of education, industries,
19 and occupations, are—

20 (A) prominently displayed on the website
21 of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

22 (B) promoted in transition services admin-
23 istered by the Secretary.

24 (2) SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—The Secretary
25 of Defense shall ensure that such emerging tech-

1 nologies, and such courses of education, industries,
2 and occupations, are—

3 (A) prominently displayed on the website
4 of the Department of Defense; and

5 (B) promoted in transition services admin-
6 istered by the Secretary of Defense.

7 (3) SECRETARY OF LABOR.—The Secretary of
8 Labor shall ensure that such emerging technologies,
9 and such courses of education, industries, and occu-
10 pations, are promoted in transition services adminis-
11 tered by the Secretary of Labor.

12 (c) DETERMINATION OF EMERGING TECH-
13 NOLOGIES.—The Secretary shall, in consultation with the
14 Secretary of Labor—

15 (1) determine which technologies of critical im-
16 portance, such as artificial intelligence and semicon-
17 ductor manufacturing, shall be treated as emerging
18 technologies for purposes of this section; and

19 (2) on a quarterly basis—

20 (A) update the list of industries and occu-
21 pations identified in subsection (a)(1) as mar-
22 ket conditions and demand evolve; and

23 (B) use the updated list in carrying out
24 subsection (b).

1 (d) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate on Sep-
2 tember 30, 2027.

3 (e) CRITICAL STAKEHOLDERS DEFINED.—In this
4 section, the term “critical stakeholders” means persons in
5 the private sector who have an interest in supporting vet-
6 erans to pursue veteran education programs involving
7 emerging technologies, such as employers in relevant in-
8 dustries, educational institutions offering relevant pro-
9 grams (whether or not leading to a standard college de-
10 gree), and nonprofit organizations.