Resolution

ENROLLED HOUSE
RESOLUTION NO. 1050 By: Wesselhoft

A Resolution supporting the elimination of barriers that impede the transfer of military job skills to civilian jobs; urging Congress to fund a certain United States Department of Labor demonstration project; urging Congress to engage in a national dialogue to establish a process for transferring military training to civilian certification and licensure requirements; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense establishes, measures, and evaluates performance standards for every occupation within the Armed Forces, and as a result provides some of the best vocational training in the nation to military personnel; and

WHEREAS, military vocational training is not recognized by states, unions and other certifying and licensing entities as fulfilling the training or educational certification and licensure requirements of applicable civilian equivalent occupations; and

WHEREAS, many former military personnel who are certified as proficient in their military occupational career, are not certified or licensed to perform a comparable job in the civilian workforce once they leave the military; and

WHEREAS, there are many occupational career fields in the Armed Forces that could translate to a civilian occupation if the Department of Defense, in collaboration with states, unions and other certifying and licensing entities, would expand its training curriculum to meet the various certification and licensure requirements of applicable civilian equivalent occupations or forge some other path to doing so; and

WHEREAS, if the Department of Defense expanded its training to meet the requirements of civilian equivalent career paths, military service members could take certification or licensure equivalency examinations to gain journeyman status that is on par with the military occupation level of proficiency for the state in which they plan to reside, and then that state could confer the appropriate journeyman equivalent status upon the military service member; and

WHEREAS, as military service members continue in the service, additional training or education could be counted as continuing training or education credits thereby allowing them to retain certification or licensure status; and

WHEREAS, under Public Law 109-461, cited as the "Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006", it is recommended that the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training Service in the United States Department of Labor carry out a demonstration project on credentialing to facilitate the seamless transition of members of the Armed Forces to civilian employment by selecting at least ten military occupational specialties with a skill or set of skills that are required for civilian employment in an industry with high growth or high worker demand; and

WHEREAS, as part of the recommended demonstration project, the Department of Labor was directed to cooperate with appropriate federal, state and industry officials to reduce or eliminate barriers of providing to veterans a credential, certification or license based on the active duty military occupational specialty skills, training or experience specialty the veteran had achieved, but that portion of the project has never come to pass; and

WHEREAS, this specific Department of Labor demonstration project has yet to take place and there has been little progress generally on the elimination of employment barriers that impede the transfer of military job skills to the civilian labor market; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 at the national convention, the Disabled American Veterans organization agreed to support the elimination of employment barriers that impede the transfer of military job skills to the civilian labor market.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 53RD OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives supports the elimination of employment barriers that impede the transfer of military job skills to the civilian labor market.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives urges Congress to fund the United States Department of Labor demonstration project as recommended in the Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006 so that the project can be carried forward to completion and be used as a springboard to facilitate development of occupational career fields in the Armed Forces in such a manner as to meet the various certification and licensure requirements of applicable civilian equivalent occupations.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives urges Congress to engage in a national dialogue, working closely with the United States Department of Defense, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the United States Department of Labor and other administration agencies, as well as state governments, employers, trade unions and licensure and credentialing entities to establish a clear process so that the military training meets civilian certification and licensure requirements.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the United States Secretary of Labor, the United States Secretary of Defense, the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and all members of the Oklahoma Congressional delegation.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 26th day of March, 2012.

Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Secretary of State this 27th **day of** March, **20** 12,

at 9:49 **o'clock** A **M.**

By: Michelle R Day