



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5409

LCO No. 2302



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Introduced by:
(VA)

AN ACT CONCERNING TROOPS-TO-TRADES INITIATIVES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) Not later than January
2 1, 2028, the Labor Commissioner, in consultation with the
3 Commissioner of Veterans Affairs and the Adjutant General, shall
4 develop a program to provide career counseling and related resources
5 to current and former members of the armed forces, including members
6 of any reserve component thereof, and of the National Guard, for
7 purposes of assisting such members in the transition from military
8 service to a professional occupation in the civilian workforce. Such
9 program shall be administered by the Labor Department, and the Labor
10 Commissioner shall designate staff of said department, with
11 demonstrated expertise or experience in issues concerning the obstacles
12 such members face when making such transition, to serve as career
13 counselors under such program.

14 (b) In developing the program described in subsection (a) of this
15 section, the Labor Commissioner, in consultation with the

16 Commissioner of Veterans Affairs and the Adjutant General, shall
17 compile a list of existing resources available to residents of this state for
18 the purposes described in said subsection. Such list shall be included in
19 all materials provided to current and former members of the armed
20 forces who receive career counseling under such program and shall be
21 published on the informational web page created in subsection (c) of this
22 section.

23 (c) (1) The Labor Commissioner shall create an informational web
24 page, as part of the Internet web site of the Labor Department, to serve
25 as a central repository of information, resources and materials,
26 including links to external sources of such information, resources and
27 materials, regarding job training, career counseling, workforce
28 development organizations, veteran and military-friendly employers,
29 as described in section 3 of this act, and other topics relevant to the
30 state's population of current and former members of the armed forces
31 who may be transitioning from military service to a professional
32 occupation in the civilian workforce. The Labor Commissioner shall
33 conspicuously post on such informational web page details of the state-
34 based transitional assistance program administered by the Military
35 Department, as described in section 2 of this act, and the annual job fair
36 conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs, as described in
37 section 3 of this act.

38 (2) The Labor Commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner
39 of Veterans Affairs and the Adjutant General, shall, on a quarterly basis,
40 solicit known and reputable providers of the information, resources and
41 materials described in subdivision (1) of this subsection for items to be
42 included on the informational web page described in said subdivision.

43 (3) The Labor Commissioner shall send a quarterly electronic mail
44 newsletter, containing relevant resources and materials included on the
45 information web page described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, to
46 interested recipients. The commissioner shall make available on such
47 informational page a form through which interested persons may

48 request to receive such quarterly electronic mail newsletter.

49 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) (1) Not later than January
50 1, 2028, the Adjutant General, in consultation with the Labor
51 Commissioner, shall develop a state-based transition assistance
52 program to provide advice and information to former members of the
53 armed forces, including former members of any reserve component
54 thereof, and of the National Guard, who have recently been discharged
55 or released from service therein and are considering available
56 educational and occupational opportunities. In developing such
57 program, the Adjutant General and the Labor Commissioner shall
58 design such program to supplement the federal transition assistance
59 program administered by the United States Department of Defense with
60 state-based resources and materials. Such program shall be
61 administered by the Military Department and the Adjutant General
62 shall designate staff of said department, with demonstrated expertise or
63 experience in successfully pursuing such educational or occupational
64 opportunities after discharge or release from the armed forces, to serve
65 as advisors-facilitators under such program.

66 (2) On and after January 1, 2030, the advisors-facilitators of the state-
67 based transition assistance program developed in subdivision (1) of this
68 subsection shall attempt to contact former members of the armed forces
69 who participated in such program, not later than two years after such
70 participation and then annually thereafter for the next four years, for the
71 purpose of tracking and measuring the success such former members
72 may have achieved in completing various levels of education, obtaining
73 various degrees of employment and developing various professional
74 skills.

75 (b) On and after January 1, 2027, the Adjutant General shall permit
76 representatives of employers to attend, in a manner prescribed by the
77 Adjutant General, inactive duty training weekends conducted in this
78 state by any reserve component of the armed forces or by the National
79 Guard for the purpose of promoting such employers' efforts to recruit

80 current members of such reserve component or the National Guard for
81 employment with such employer.

82 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) On and after January 1,
83 2028, the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs shall hold an annual job fair
84 to promote employment of current and former members of the armed
85 forces, including members of any reserve component thereof, and of the
86 National Guard. In holding such annual job fair, the Commissioner of
87 Veterans Affairs may coordinate with the Labor Commissioner to invite
88 representatives of employers in the state to attend and present at such
89 job fair for purposes of providing information about prospective
90 employment opportunities with such employers. The Commissioner of
91 Veterans Affairs shall publicize such annual job fair on the Internet web
92 site of the Department of Veterans Affairs and shall include information
93 about such annual job fair in any electronic mail communication
94 periodically sent from the department to interested recipients.

95 (b) On and after January 1, 2028, the Commissioner of Veterans
96 Affairs, in consultation with the Labor Commissioner, shall publish on
97 the Internet web site of the Department of Veterans Affairs a list of
98 employers in the state that qualify as veteran and military-friendly. Any
99 employer in the state that is interested in being included on such
100 published list shall apply to the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs and
101 the Labor Commissioner, in a form and manner prescribed by said
102 commissioners, for such inclusion.

103 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than August 1, 2026, the
104 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall consult
105 with the Labor Commissioner, the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs
106 and any other official, organization or entity the Commissioner of
107 Economic and Community Development deems appropriate for the
108 purpose of developing legislative recommendations for promoting
109 employment in the state of current and former members of the armed
110 forces, including members of any reserve component thereof, and of the
111 National Guard. In developing such legislative recommendations, the

112 Commissioner of Economic Development may examine the efficacy of
113 various incentives, including, but not limited to, tax credits, wage
114 subsidies and reimbursements for training.

115 (b) Not later than January 15, 2027, the Commissioner of Economic
116 and Community Development shall submit a report containing the
117 legislative recommendations developed pursuant to subsection (a) of
118 this section to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
119 having cognizance of matters relating to labor, veterans and military
120 affairs and economic development, in accordance with the provisions of
121 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To support veterans and members of the armed forces in the transition from military life to the civilian workforce through information sharing of available resources relating to educational and employment opportunities.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]