

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN MIKE BOST

H.R. 1669: The VET-TEC Authorization Act of 2023

Background:

The VET-TEC pilot program was created via the Forever G.I. Bill in 2017 and provides eligible veterans with tuition, fees, and a monthly housing stipend (based on the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill rates) to train for jobs in the high-technology industry. VET-TEC allows veterans who are looking to make a career switch into the competitive tech sector to complete needed training to make them eligible job candidates without having to go through a standard 2-to-4-year training program. As of February 2023, the VET-TEC pilot program has an 84% graduation rate, a 64% employment rate, and an average salary of \$65,061. VET-TEC graduates often end up being employed by software, defense, and technology companies that are leaders in the economy and have the potential for high job growth. This has allowed over 12,000 veterans the option to enter an industry that has some of the highest paying salaries in the United States. Under current law, 2023 is the last year that the VET-TEC pilot program would be available and funded for veterans who are looking to change their careers into the technology field.

The VET-TEC Authorization Act would make the VET-TEC pilot program permanent and make needed improvements to how the program runs. This bill would allow 8,000 veterans to enroll in the program yearly. It would also allow institutions of higher education to participate in the program under the same guidelines as current VET-TEC providers. Veterans using the program would also still receive many of the benefits student veterans have under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, such as monthly housing allowances, and tuition assistance to ensure that they have the resources they need to successfully complete the VET-TEC program.

The Message:

- Working in the tech industry continues to be one of the most sought-after fields.
- *The VET-TEC Authorization Act* would make permanent a successful pilot program that has helped thousands of veterans get jobs in the technology sector.
- The VET-TEC program is good for veterans, good for colleges, and good for the American economy, there is no reason why it should not be a permanent education option for veterans seeking employment.