

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5200

To direct the Department of Defense to designate an executive agent responsible for continuing education in strategic foreign languages, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2021

Mr. BACON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To direct the Department of Defense to designate an executive agent responsible for continuing education in strategic foreign languages, 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. DEFENSE LANGUAGE CONTINUING EDUCATION**

4 **PROGRAM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary
7 of Defense for Personnel and Readiness shall coordinate
8 with the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency to
9 designate an executive agent for commercially available

1 advanced foreign language training to meet operational
2 readiness requirements of the Department of Defense.

3 (b) ELEMENTS.—The executive agent designated in
4 subsection (a) shall be responsible for the following:

5 (1) Developing policies, procedures, and cur-
6 ricula to allow for continuing language training
7 when linguists transition to operational environ-
8 ments from education or training environments,
9 such as the Defense Language Institute, the Defense
10 Language and National Security Education Office,
11 or service-based training.

12 (2) Identifying the resourcing requirements nec-
13 essary for each Armed Force to have access to the
14 following foreign language training elements:

15 (A) A foreign language and current culture
16 training and maintenance virtual immersion
17 program covering strategic languages (as des-
18 ignated by the Federal Government), with a
19 range of multimedia materials including—

20 (i) current and authentic copyrighted
21 multimedia content (video, audio, print,
22 etc.), in multiple genres, that have been
23 cleared for legal use;

24 (ii) foreign-originated newscasts and
25 interviews with foreign speakers; and

1 (iii) any other content determined by
2 the executive agent to be necessary for per-
3 sonnel to acquire proper vocabulary, phra-
4 seology, and enhanced understanding of
5 the nuances associated with foreign cul-
6 tures.

7 (B) Anytime accessibility, both online and
8 via mobile device.

9 (C) Training programs with success proven
10 by previous partnerships with academic institu-
11 tions in the United States or other departments
12 and agencies of the Federal Government.

13 (c) REIMBURSEMENT AUTHORITY.—Not later than
14 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
15 executive agent, in coordination with the chief of each cov-
16 ered Armed Force, shall establish a procedure through
17 which the Armed Force shall reimburse any organization
18 of the Department of Defense that provides instruction
19 under this section to members of that Armed Force for
20 the costs of such instruction.

21 (d) COVERED ARMED FORCE DEFINED.—In this sec-
22 tion, the term “covered Armed Force” means the Army,
23 Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Space Force.

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