

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5046

To require that appointments and selections to United States Military Academy, United States Naval Academy, and United States Air Force Academy be made solely in order of merit as determined by a standardized candidate composite score, to prohibit the consideration of race, sex, color, ethnicity, national origin, or religion in service academy admissions, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 26, 2025

Ms. MACE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To require that appointments and selections to United States Military Academy, United States Naval Academy, and United States Air Force Academy be made solely in order of merit as determined by a standardized candidate composite score, to prohibit the consideration of race, sex, color, ethnicity, national origin, or religion in service academy admissions, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Restoring Merit in the
3 Military Service Academies Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. SERVICE ACADEMIES; APPOINTMENTS AND ADDI-**
5 **TIONAL APPOINTEES; PROHIBITION ON CON-**
6 **SIDERATION OF RACE, SEX, COLOR, ETH-**
7 **NICITY, NATIONAL ORIGIN, AND RELIGION.**

8 (a) UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY.—

9 (1) APPOINTMENTS.—Section 7442 of title 10,
10 United States Code, is amended—

11 (A) in subsection (a)—

12 (i) by striking “subsection (j)” and in-
13 sserting “subsection (k)”;

14 (ii) in paragraph (1), by striking “as
15 established by competitive examinations”
16 and inserting “as determined by candidate
17 composite score rank”; and

18 (iii) in the matter following paragraph
19 (10)—

20 (I) in the second sentence—

21 (aa) by inserting “(in which
22 event selection shall be in order
23 of merit as determined by can-
24 didate composite score rank)”
25 after “may be submitted without
26 ranking”; and

1 (bb) by striking “9 ranked”
2 and inserting “14 ranked”;

3 (II) by inserting after the second
4 sentence the following: “If alternates
5 are submitted unranked, any selection
6 from among such unranked alternates
7 shall be in order of merit as deter-
8 mined by candidate composite score
9 rank.”; and

10 (III) by striking “shall be consid-
11 ered qualified alternates for the pur-
12 pose of selection under other provi-
13 sions of this chapter” and inserting
14 “shall be eligible and considered for
15 selection under other provisions of
16 this chapter, including as qualified al-
17 ternates and additional appointees”;

18 (B) by redesignating subsections (b)
19 through (j) as subsections (c) through (k), re-
20 spectively;

21 (C) by inserting after subsection (a) the
22 following new subsection:

23 “(b) There shall be appointed each year at the Acad-
24 emy 300 qualified alternates selected in order of merit as
25 determined by candidate composite score rank by the Sec-

1 retary of the Army from qualified candidates nominated
2 pursuant to paragraphs (3) through (10) of subsection (a)
3 and all other qualified, non-selected candidates holding
4 nominations from any other source pursuant to this chap-
5 ter.”;

6 (D) in subsection (c), as redesignated by
7 subparagraph (B)—

8 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking “one
9 hundred selected by the President” and in-
10 sserting “up to one hundred qualified can-
11 didates selected by the President in order
12 of merit as determined by candidate com-
13 posite score rank”;

14 (ii) in paragraph (2)—

15 (I) by striking “85” and insert-
16 ing “up to 85 qualified candidates”;
17 and

18 (II) by inserting “, selected in
19 order of merit as determined by can-
20 didate composite score rank” before
21 the period at the end;

22 (iii) in paragraph (3)—

23 (I) by striking “85” and insert-
24 ing “up to 85 qualified candidates”;
25 and

1 (II) by inserting “, selected in
2 order of merit as determined by can-
3 didate composite score rank” before
4 the period at the end;

5 (iv) in paragraph (4)—

6 (I) by striking “20” and insert-
7 ing “up to 20 qualified candidates”;
8 and

9 (II) by inserting “, selected in
10 order of merit as determined by can-
11 didate composite score rank” before
12 the period at the end; and

13 (v) by striking paragraph (5);

14 (E) in subsection (f), as redesignated by
15 subparagraph (B), by striking “subsection (b)”
16 and inserting “subsection (c)”;

17 (F) in subsection (h), as so redesignated—

18 (i) by striking “subsection (b)” each
19 place it appears and inserting “subsection
20 (c)”;

21 (ii) in paragraph (4), by striking
22 “subsection (e)” and inserting “subsection
23 (f)”;

24 (G) by adding at the end the following new
25 subsections:

1 “(l) Qualifications of candidates for admission shall
2 be determined by use of, among other metrics, a candidate
3 composite score uniformly calculated for each applicant.
4 The academic component of such composite score shall be
5 weighted at not less than 60 percent of the overall com-
6 posite score and shall include the candidate’s standardized
7 test scores, which shall be weighted at not less than 45
8 percent of the overall composite score. The total of all sub-
9 jective components, if any, of the composite score shall be
10 weighted at not more than 10 percent of the overall com-
11 posite score. Any subjectively based adjustment of the can-
12 didate composite score shall be limited to not more than
13 10 percent of the score before such adjustment. Can-
14 didates’ composite scores, only, shall be used to determine
15 order of merit.

16 “(m) Not later than October 1 of each year, the Sec-
17 retary of the Army shall submit to the Committees on
18 Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Represent-
19 atives a report, including—

20 “(1) with respect to the preceding admissions
21 cycle—

22 “(A) the established minimum candidate
23 composite score and college entrance examina-
24 tion rank (CEER) score used in such cycle; and

1 “(B) the total number of waivers of such
2 minimum candidate composite score or CEER
3 score, including the candidate composite score
4 and CEER score of each cadet to whom a waiv-
5 er relates, a brief explanation of the reasons for
6 such waiver, and the category of appointment
7 under which each such cadet was appointed
8 (and if congressional, the type of slate that
9 nominated the waived appointee); and

10 “(2) for each cadet who, during the four-year
11 period preceding the date of the report, received a
12 waiver for the established minimum candidate com-
13 posite score or CEER score, the status of each such
14 cadet, including whether the cadet is still at the
15 Academy, the circumstances of such cadet’s depar-
16 ture (if applicable), the cumulative academic GPA,
17 cumulative military GPA, any major conduct or
18 honor violations, any remedial measures undertaken,
19 and any other noteworthy information concerning
20 such cadet.

21 “(n) The race, sex, color, ethnicity, national origin,
22 or religion of an applicant may not be considered in a de-
23 termination whether to admit such applicant to the Acad-
24 emy.”.

1 (2) ADDITIONAL APPOINTEES.—Section 7443 of
2 title 10, United States Code, is amended—

3 (A) in the section heading, by striking “ap-
4 pointment” and inserting “additional appoint-
5 ments”;

6 (B) in the first sentence—

7 (i) by inserting “(a)” before “If it is
8 determined”; and

9 (ii) by striking “who competed for
10 nomination” and inserting “who were eligi-
11 ble and competed unsuccessfully for nomi-
12 nation under any other provision of law”;

13 (C) in the second sentence—

14 (i) by striking “(8)” and inserting
15 “(10)”; and

16 (ii) by striking “holding competitive
17 nominations” and inserting “who were eli-
18 gible and competed unsuccessfully for nom-
19 ination”; and

20 (D) by adding at the end the following:

21 “All provisions relating to candidate composite
22 score in section 7442 of this title shall apply to
23 calculation and use of candidate composite
24 score as that term is used in this section.”

1 “(b) Not later than October 1 of each year, the Sec-
2 retary of the Army shall submit to the congressional de-
3 fense committees a report that includes, with respect to
4 the preceding admissions cycle—

5 “(1) the candidate composite scores and college
6 entrance examination rank (CEER) scores of the ten
7 candidates appointed under this section and under
8 section 7442(e) of this title who had the lowest can-
9 didate composite scores;

10 “(2) the total number of qualified and nomi-
11 nated (by any source), but not selected, candidates;
12 and

13 “(3) the candidate composite scores and CEER
14 scores of the ten qualified and nominated candidates
15 having the highest candidate composite scores and
16 who were not selected for appointment.”.

17 (b) UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY.—

18 (1) APPOINTMENTS.—Section 8454 of title 10,
19 United States Code, is amended—

20 (A) in subsection (a)—

21 (i) by striking “subsection (h)” and
22 inserting “subsection (i)”;
23

24 (ii) in paragraph (1), by striking “as
established by competitive examination”

1 and inserting “as determined by candidate
2 composite score rank”; and

3 (iii) in the matter following paragraph
4 (10)—

5 (I) in the second sentence—

6 (aa) by inserting “(in which
7 event selection shall be in order
8 of merit as determined by can-
9 didate composite score rank)”
10 after “may be submitted without
11 ranking”; and

12 (bb) by striking “9 ranked”
13 and inserting “14 ranked”;

14 (II) by inserting after the second
15 sentence the following: “If alternates
16 are submitted unranked, any selection
17 from among such unranked alternates
18 shall be in order of merit as deter-
19 mined by candidate composite score
20 rank.”; and

21 (III) by striking “shall be consid-
22 ered qualified alternates for the pur-
23 pose of selection under other provi-
24 sions of this chapter” and inserting
25 “shall be eligible and considered for

1 selection under other provisions of
2 this chapter, including as qualified al-
3 ternates and additional appointees”;

4 (B) by redesignating subsections (b)
5 through (h) as subsections (c) through (i), re-
6 spectively;

7 (C) by inserting after subsection (a) the
8 following new subsection:

9 “(b) There shall be appointed each year at the Acad-
10 emy 300 qualified alternates selected in order of merit as
11 determined by candidate composite score rank by the Sec-
12 retary of the Navy from qualified candidates nominated
13 pursuant to paragraphs (3) through (10) of subsection (a)
14 and all other qualified, non-selected candidates holding
15 nominations from any other source pursuant to this chap-
16 ter.”;

17 (D) in subsection (c), as redesignated by
18 subparagraph (B)—

19 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking “one
20 hundred selected by the President” and in-
21 serting “up to one hundred qualified can-
22 didates selected by the President in order
23 of merit as determined by candidate com-
24 posite score rank”;

25 (ii) in paragraph (2)—

1 (I) by striking “85” and insert-
2 ing “up to 85 qualified candidates”;
3 and

4 (II) by inserting “, selected in
5 order of merit as determined by can-
6 didate composite score rank” before
7 the period at the end;

8 (iii) in paragraph (3)—

9 (I) by striking “85” and insert-
10 ing “up to 85 qualified candidates”;
11 and

12 (II) by inserting “, selected in
13 order of merit as determined by can-
14 didate composite score rank” before
15 the period at the end;

16 (iv) in paragraph (4)—

17 (I) by striking “20” and insert-
18 ing “up to 20 qualified candidates”;
19 and

20 (II) by inserting “, selected in
21 order of merit as determined by can-
22 didate composite score rank” before
23 the period at the end; and

24 (v) by striking paragraph (5);

1 (E) in subsection (f), as redesignated by
2 subparagraph (B), by striking “subsection (b)”
3 both places it appears and inserting “subsection
4 (c)”;

5 (F) by adding at the end the following new
6 subsections:

7 “(j) Qualifications of candidates for admission shall
8 be determined by use of, among other metrics, a candidate
9 composite score uniformly calculated for each applicant.
10 The academic component of such composite score shall be
11 weighted at not less than 60 percent of the overall com-
12 posite score and shall include the candidate’s standardized
13 test scores, which shall be weighted at not less than 45
14 percent of the overall composite score. The total of all sub-
15 jective components, if any, of the composite score shall be
16 weighted at not more than 10 percent of the overall com-
17 posite score. Any subjectively based adjustment of the can-
18 didate composite score shall be limited to not more than
19 10 percent of the score before such adjustment. Can-
20 didates’ composite scores, only, shall be used to determine
21 order of merit.

22 “(k) Not later than October 1 of each year, the Sec-
23 retary of the Navy shall submit to the Committees on
24 Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Represent-
25 atives a report, including—

1 “(1) with respect to the preceding admissions
2 cycle—

3 “(A) the established minimum candidate
4 composite score and college entrance examina-
5 tion rank (CEER) score used in such cycle; and

6 “(B) the total number of waivers of such
7 minimum candidate composite score or CEER
8 score, including the candidate composite score
9 and CEER score of each midshipman to whom
10 a waiver relates, a brief explanation of the rea-
11 sons for such waiver, and the category of ap-
12 pointment under which each such midshipman
13 was appointed (and if congressional, the type of
14 slate that nominated the waived appointee); and

15 “(2) for each midshipman who, during the four-
16 year period preceding the date of the report, received
17 a waiver for the established minimum candidate
18 composite score or CEER score, the status of each
19 such midshipman, including whether the mid-
20 shipman is still at the Academy, the circumstances
21 of such midshipman’s departure (if applicable), the
22 cumulative academic GPA, cumulative military GPA,
23 any major conduct or honor violations, any remedial
24 measures undertaken, and any other noteworthy in-
25 formation concerning such midshipman.

1 “(l) The race, sex, color, ethnicity, national origin,
2 or religion of an applicant may not be considered in a de-
3 termination whether to admit such applicant to the Acad-
4 emy.”.

5 (2) ADDITIONAL APPOINTEES.—Section 8456 of
6 title 10, United States Code, is amended—

7 (A) in the section heading, by inserting “,
8 additional appointments” after “Midshipmen”;
9 and

10 (B) in subsection (b)—

11 (i) in the first sentence, by striking
12 “who competed for nomination” and in-
13 serting “who were eligible and competed
14 unsuccessfully for nomination under any
15 other provision of law”;

16 (ii) in the second sentence—

17 (I) by striking “(8)” and insert-
18 ing “(10)”; and

19 (II) by striking “who competed
20 for appointment” and inserting “who
21 were eligible and competed unsucces-
22 fully for nomination”; and

23 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
24 lowing: “All provisions relating to can-
25 didate composite score in section 8454 of

1 this title shall apply to calculation and use
2 of candidate composite score as that term
3 is used in this section.

4 “(d) Not later than October 1 of each year, the Sec-
5 retary of the Navy shall submit to the congressional de-
6 fense committees a report that includes, with respect to
7 the preceding admissions cycle—

8 “(1) the candidate composite scores and college
9 entrance examination rank (CEER) scores of the ten
10 candidates appointed under this section and under
11 section 8454(e) of this title who had the lowest can-
12 didate composite scores;

13 “(2) the total number of qualified and nomi-
14 nated (by any source), but not selected, candidates;
15 and

16 “(3) the candidate composite scores and CEER
17 scores of the ten qualified and nominated candidates
18 having the highest candidate composite scores and
19 who were not selected for appointment.”.

20 (c) UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY.—

21 (1) APPOINTMENTS.—Section 9442 of title 10,
22 United States Code, is amended—

23 (A) in subsection (a)—

24 (i) by striking “subsection (j)” and in-
25 serting “subsection (k)”;

1 (ii) in paragraph (1), by striking “as
2 established by competitive examination”
3 and inserting “as determined by candidate
4 composite score rank”; and

5 (iii) in the matter following paragraph
6 (10)—

7 (I) in the second sentence—

8 (aa) by inserting “(in which
9 event selection shall be in order
10 of merit as determined by can-
11 didate composite score rank)”
12 after “may be submitted without
13 ranking”; and

14 (bb) by striking “9 ranked”
15 and inserting “14 ranked”;

16 (II) by inserting after the second
17 sentence the following: “If alternates
18 are submitted unranked, any selection
19 from among such unranked alternates
20 shall be in order of merit as deter-
21 mined by candidate composite score
22 rank.”; and

23 (III) by striking “shall be consid-
24 ered qualified alternates for the pur-
25 pose of selection under other provi-

1 sions of this chapter” and inserting
2 “shall be eligible and considered for
3 selection under other provisions of
4 this chapter, including as qualified al-
5 ternates and additional appointees”;

6 (B) by redesignating subsections (b)
7 through (j) as subsections (c) through (k), re-
8 spectively;

9 (C) by inserting after subsection (a) the
10 following new subsection:

11 “(b) There shall be appointed each year at the Acad-
12 emy 300 qualified alternates selected in order of merit as
13 determined by candidate composite score rank by the Sec-
14 retary of the Air Force from qualified candidates nomi-
15 nated pursuant to paragraphs (3) through (10) of sub-
16 section (a) and all other qualified, non-selected candidates
17 holding nominations from any other source pursuant to
18 this chapter.”;

19 (D) in subsection (c), as redesignated by
20 subparagraph (B)—

21 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking “one
22 hundred selected by the President” and in-
23 serting “up to one hundred qualified can-
24 didates selected by the President in order

1 of merit as determined by candidate com-
2 posite score rank”;

3 (ii) in paragraph (2)—

4 (I) by striking “85” and insert-
5 ing “up to 85 qualified candidates”;
6 and

7 (II) by inserting “, selected in
8 order of merit as determined by can-
9 didate composite score rank” before
10 the period at the end;

11 (iii) in paragraph (3)—

12 (I) by striking “85” and insert-
13 ing “up to 85 qualified candidates”;
14 and

15 (II) by inserting “, selected in
16 order of merit as determined by can-
17 didate composite score rank” before
18 the period at the end;

19 (iv) in paragraph (4)—

20 (I) by striking “20” and insert-
21 ing “up to 20 qualified candidates”;
22 and

23 (II) by inserting “, selected in
24 order of merit as determined by can-

1 didate composite score rank” before
2 the period at the end; and

3 (v) by striking paragraph (5);

4 (E) in subsection (f), as redesignated by
5 subparagraph (B), by striking “subsection (b)”
6 and inserting “subsection (c)”;

7 (F) in subsection (h), as so redesignated—

8 (i) in paragraph (2), by striking “sub-
9 section (b)” each place it appears and in-
10 serting “subsection (c)”;

11 (ii) in paragraph (3)—

12 (I) by striking “subsection
13 (b)(5)” and insert “subsection (b)”;

14 (II) in subparagraphs (A)
15 through (C), by striking “subsection
16 (b)” each place it appears and insert-
17 ing “subsection (c)”;

18 (iii) in paragraph (4), by striking
19 “subsection (e)” and inserting “subsection
20 (f)”;

21 (G) by adding at the end the following new
22 subsections:

23 “(l) Qualifications of candidates for admission shall
24 be determined by use of, among other metrics, a candidate
25 composite score uniformly calculated for each applicant.

1 The academic component of such composite score shall be
2 weighted at not less than 60 percent of the overall com-
3 posite score and shall include the candidate's standardized
4 test scores, which shall be weighted at not less than 45
5 percent of the overall composite score. The total of all sub-
6 jective components, if any, of the composite score shall be
7 weighted at not more than 10 percent of the overall com-
8 posite score. Any subjectively based adjustment of the can-
9 didate composite score shall be limited to not more than
10 10 percent of the score before such adjustment. Can-
11 didates' composite scores, only, shall be used to determine
12 order of merit.

13 “(m) Not later than October 1 of each year, the Sec-
14 retary of the Air Force shall submit to the Committees
15 on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Rep-
16 resentatives a report, including—

17 “(1) with respect to the preceding admissions
18 cycle—

19 “(A) the established minimum candidate
20 composite score and college entrance examina-
21 tion rank (CEER) score used in such cycle; and

22 “(B) the total number of waivers of such
23 minimum candidate composite score or CEER
24 score, including the candidate composite score
25 and CEER score of each cadet to whom a waiv-

1 er relates, a brief explanation of the reasons for
2 such waiver, and the category of appointment
3 under which each such cadet was appointed
4 (and if congressional, the type of slate that
5 nominated the waived appointee); and

6 “(2) for each cadet who, during the four-year
7 period preceding the date of the report, received a
8 waiver for the established minimum candidate com-
9 posite score or CEER score, the status of each such
10 cadet, including whether the cadet is still at the
11 Academy, the circumstances of such cadet’s depart-
12 ure (if applicable), the cumulative academic GPA,
13 cumulative military GPA, any major conduct or
14 honor violations, any remedial measures undertaken,
15 and any other noteworthy information concerning
16 such cadet.

17 “(n) The race, sex, color, ethnicity, national origin,
18 or religion of an applicant may not be considered in a de-
19 termination whether to admit such applicant to the Acad-
20 emy.”.

21 (2) ADDITIONAL APPOINTEES.—Section 9443 of
22 title 10, United States Code, is amended—

23 (A) in the section heading, by striking “ap-
24 pointment” and inserting “additional appoint-
25 ments”;

1 (B) in the first sentence—

2 (i) by inserting “(a)” before “If it is
3 determined”; and

4 (ii) by striking “who competed for
5 nomination” and inserting “who were eligi-
6 ble and competed unsuccessfully for nomi-
7 nation under any other provision of law”;

8 (C) in the second sentence—

9 (i) by striking “(8)” and inserting
10 “(10)”; and

11 (ii) by striking “holding competitive
12 nominations” and inserting “who were eli-
13 gible and competed unsuccessfully for nom-
14 ination”; and

15 (D) by adding at the end the following:

16 “All provisions relating to candidate composite
17 score in section 9442 of this title shall apply to
18 calculation and use of candidate composite
19 score as that term is used in this section.

20 “(b) Not later than October 1 of each year, the Sec-
21 retary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional
22 defense committees a report that includes, with respect to
23 the preceding admissions cycle—

24 “(1) the candidate composite scores and college
25 entrance examination rank (CEER) scores of the ten

1 candidates appointed under this section and under
2 section 9442(e) of this title who had the lowest can-
3 didate composite scores;

4 “(2) the total number of qualified and nomi-
5 nated (by any source), but not selected, candidates;
6 and

7 “(3) the candidate composite scores and CEER
8 scores of the ten qualified and nominated candidates
9 having the highest candidate composite scores and
10 who were not selected for appointment.”.

○