

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8175

To amend title 10, United States Code, and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994, to codify and clarify gender neutral standards for members of certain Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 2, 2026

Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Ms. GOODLANDER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. TRAN, Mr. CROW, Mr. RYAN, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. ELFRETH, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. LATIMER, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. BELL, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. DELUZIO, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. KEATING, Mr. SORENSEN, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. VASQUEZ, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. LIEU, Mr. WHITESIDES, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. MENEFEE, and Mr. KHANNA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994, to codify and clarify gender neutral standards for members of certain Armed Forces, 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. GENDER NEUTRAL STANDARDS IN CERTAIN**
2 **ARMED FORCES.**

3 (a) PROHIBITION ON EXCLUSION OF A MEMBER OF
4 CERTAIN ARMED FORCES FROM AN ASSIGNMENT ON THE
5 BASIS OF GENDER.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 652 of title 10,
7 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

8 **“§ 652. Prohibition of exclusion from assignments on**
9 **the basis of gender**

10 “(a) PROHIBITION.—A member of the Army, Navy,
11 Marine Corps, Air Force, or Space Force may not be ex-
12 cluded from an occupational specialty, career field, or as-
13 signment on the basis of gender.

14 “(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary of Defense
15 shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the
16 Senate and House of Representatives an annual report
17 that includes, with respect to the year preceding the date
18 of the report, the following:

19 “(1) Any change to an occupational standard,
20 including a description of how such change predicts
21 performance of actual, regular, and recurring duties
22 of a military occupational specialty.

23 “(2) The number of members, disaggregated by
24 military occupational specialty and gender, who were
25 involuntarily reclassified or separated for a reason

1 other than discipline or pursuant to a sentence of a
2 court-martial.

3 “(3) The reasons for reclassifications or separa-
4 tions described in paragraph (2).”.

5 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 8225
6 of title 10, United States Code, is repealed.

7 (3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
8 by this subsection shall take effect on September 30,
9 2026. The first report under subsection (b) of sec-
10 tion 652 of such title, as amended by this section,
11 shall be due on September 30, 2027.

12 (b) GENDER-NEUTRAL OCCUPATIONAL STANDARD
13 FOR A MILITARY CAREER DESIGNATOR: MODERNIZATION;
14 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO CONGRESS TO REVIEW A
15 PROPOSED CHANGE.—

16 (1) MODERNIZATION.—Section 543 of the Na-
17 tional Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
18 1994 (Public Law 103–160; 10 U.S.C. 113 note) is
19 amended—

20 (A) in subsection (a)—

21 (i) in the matter preceding paragraph
22 (1), by striking “that is open to both male
23 and female members of the Armed
24 Forces”; and

1 (ii) in paragraph (3), by striking
2 “women in that occupational career field”
3 and inserting “individuals in such occupa-
4 tional career field on the basis of gender”;
5 (B) in subsection (b)—

6 (i) in the heading, by striking “SPE-
7 CIFIC PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS” and in-
8 serting “**OCCUPATIONAL PERFORM-**
9 **ANCE STANDARDS**”;

10 (ii) in paragraph (1)—

11 (I) by striking “physical” both
12 places it appears;

13 (II) by inserting “, based on a
14 scientifically rigorous process,” after
15 “determines”;

16 (III) by inserting “technical, tac-
17 tical, cognitive, or physical abilities,
18 including” before “muscular
19 strength”; and

20 (IV) by striking “(in the case of
21 a career designator that is open to
22 both male and female members of the
23 Armed Forces)”; and

24 (iii) in paragraph (2)—

1 (I) by inserting “not shorter than
2 18 months” after “a reasonable pe-
3 riod”; and

4 (II) by inserting “that are based
5 on input from health care providers
6 and researchers of the Department of
7 Defense” after “prescribed by the
8 Secretary”; and

9 (C) in subsection (c), by striking “female
10 members of the Armed Forces” and inserting
11 “members of the Armed Forces, of any gen-
12 der,”.

13 (2) INFORMATION TO CONGRESS.—Such section
14 is further amended, in subsection (c)—

15 (A) by striking “are expected to” and in-
16 serting “may”;

17 (B) by striking “Congress” and inserting
18 “the congressional defense committees”;

19 (C) by striking “change and the justifica-
20 tion and rationale” and inserting “proposed
21 change, the estimated costs, the justification
22 (including the relevant research and data that
23 the Secretary reviewed and relied upon before
24 making such proposal), and rationale”; and

1 (D) by striking “60-day period” and in-
2 serting “180-day period”.

3 (c) INSTITUTE FOR DEFENSE ANALYSES REVIEW OF
4 OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS OF ARMY AND MARINE
5 CORPS GROUND COMBAT UNITS.—

6 (1) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
7 seven days after the date of the enactment of this
8 Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Con-
9 gress the full, unredacted review of operational effec-
10 tiveness of Army and Marine Corps ground combat
11 units prepared by the Institute for Defense Anal-
12 yses.

13 (2) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.—Not
14 later than 180 days after the date of the date of the
15 enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of
16 the United States shall submit to the congressional
17 defense committees a report reviewing—

18 (A) the review submitted to Congress
19 under paragraph (1); and

20 (B) any actions taken by the Secretary of
21 Defense in response to the review.

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