

H.R. 5766: VET-TEC Expansion Act

Background:

Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET-TEC) allow veterans to use their GI Bill benefits to learn the high-tech skills that many companies in the IT industry demand. Whether a veteran wants to launch a new career, hit the ground running during their transition to civilian life, or improve their business, VET-TEC has proved to be successful in offering unique, high-tech training to veterans.

Under current law, training providers are required to have been established for at least two years, which greatly reduces the number of available programs to veterans. The VET-TEC Expansion Act would reduce the two-year minimum requirement a program must be in existence for it to be eligible to enroll students through the VET-TEC program to one year. This bill also expands upon the current VET-TEC Pilot Program by allowing student veterans, and now some qualified active-duty servicemembers, to use their GI Bill for tech-centric courses. Lastly, this bill would also allow veterans to participate in part-time programs, not to exceed 6 months in length.

The Message:

- This bill would significantly expand program eligibility and reduce barriers to entry which will encourage more students to enroll in the VET-TEC program through VA.
- Allowing student veterans to access more educational opportunities is imperative as we work to meet the demands of the ever evolving, fast-paced technology industry.
- The VET-TEC Expansion Act builds on the success of the original law by expanding choice for veterans in a dynamic, technology-centric economy.