

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 2.2-2001.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Values Veterans*  
3 *Program; military spouse eligibility.*

4 [H 2736]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 2.2-2001.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**8 **§ 2.2-2001.2. Initiatives to reduce unemployment among veterans and military spouses;**  
9 **comprehensive transition program.**10 A. The Department shall develop a comprehensive program to reduce unemployment among veterans *and*  
11 *military spouses* by assisting businesses to attract, hire, train, and retain veterans *and military spouses*. Such  
12 program shall promote strategies for connecting employers to qualified veterans *and military spouses* and  
13 include (i) a workforce assessment and training program for participating employers and (ii) a certification  
14 process for participating employers with the objective of setting measurable goals for hiring and retaining  
15 veterans *and military spouses*.16 B. All agencies in the executive branch of state government and all public institutions of higher education  
17 shall, to the maximum extent possible, be certified in accordance with this section. Such agencies and  
18 institutions may request a certification waiver from the Governor if they can demonstrate that (i) the  
19 certification is in conflict with the organization's operating directives or (ii) they have in place an alternative  
20 program that meets the requirements of this section.21 C. The Department shall take steps to promote awareness among veterans of the acceptance by the  
22 regulatory boards within the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, the Department of  
23 Health Professions, or any board named in Title 54.1 pursuant to § 54.1-118 of the military training,  
24 education, or experience of a service member honorably discharged from active military service in the Armed  
25 Forces of the United States, to the extent that such training, education, or experience is substantially  
26 equivalent to the requirements established by law and regulations of the respective board for the issuance of  
27 any license, permit, certificate, or other document, however styled or denominated, required for the practice  
28 of any business, profession, or occupation in the Commonwealth.29 D. The Department shall develop a comprehensive program to assist military service members, veterans,  
30 and their spouses in making a successful transition from military to civilian life in Virginia. The program  
31 shall promote strategies and services for connecting transitioning service members, veterans, and *their*  
32 spouses to local, regional, state, and federal employment resources in Virginia, including (i) skills and  
33 workforce assessments and (ii) internship and apprenticeship programs. Such program shall prioritize  
34 assistance to military service members, veterans, and their spouses who (a) have not sought services under  
35 any program authorized under the federal Wagner-Peyser Act, 29 U.S.C. § 49 et seq., and available through  
36 the Virginia Employment Commission and (b) are not eligible for job counseling, training, and placement  
37 services for veterans and spouses under 38 U.S.C. § 4101 et seq.

ENROLLED

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