

ROA's Delivering Reservist Integration and Veterans Education (DRIVE) Act: *Section by Section Summary*

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SEC. 2: Establishes an interagency task force on benefits and resources for reserve component service members, veterans, and their families.

The task force shall, on a biennial basis, review relevant statutes, policies, regulations, programs, trainings, services, and guidance to ensure uniformed services reserve component members are informed on and have access to:

- 1) Benefits available under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
- 2) Entitled protections to serving, separated, or retired reserve component members.

SEC. 3: Amends eligibility for preseparation counseling through the Transition Assistance Program by granting access to reserve component members after the completion of 180 days of active service, as opposed to "180 continuous days of active duty."

For the purposes of this section, full-time training duty and annual training is considered active service.

SEC. 4: Establishes additional matters to be covered by TAP preseparation counseling for reserve component members, including:

- 1) An explanation of the circumstances under which the member may be subject to a retried recall to active duty.
- 2) Information on financial planning assistance, including consumer protections afforded under the *Servicemembers Civil Relief Act* and *Military Lending Act*.
- 3) Information, discussion, and counsel on pathways to obtain and properly use military service records for the purpose of accessing service earned benefits.
- 4) Information, discussion, and counsel on pathways to report and document health conditions and duty status, during time in service and following separation from service, for the purpose of accessing service earned benefits.
- 5) Information and discussion on the Retirement Points Accounting System, including verifying retirement point calculations and benefits to which the member may be entitled to receive, including retirement pay.

SEC. 5: Establishes a reserve component curriculum within TAP.

The curriculum is focused on the unique separation and transition needs of eligible reserve component members and their families and strives to serve as a complimentary asset to the Department of Defense's Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

The reserve component TAP curriculum administers and provides:

- 1) Resources and information to the reserve component member and the spouse and dependents of such member throughout each phase of the deployment cycle.
- 2) Resources, services, counseling, and assistance to separating and retiring reserve component members and the spouse and dependents of such member.

Under ROA's DRIVE Act, the curriculum administered throughout each phase of the deployment cycle is fully virtually.

The curriculum for separating and retiring reserve component members is more comparable to the existing program under TAP but provides the member and spouse with the ability to complete the mandatory courses virtually.

This curriculum includes:

- One day of preseparation counseling specific to the component of the armed force concerned.
- One day of instruction regarding accessing VA benefits and the benefits available to the member under the law.
- One day of instruction regarding transition, financial, and career assistance, including information on SCRA, MLA, and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.
- Two days of instruction regarding component centric topics selected by the member.

SEC. 6: Confers veteran status for purposes of federal hiring veterans' preference on Reserve Component members after 180 "total" days on active day as opposed to 180 "consecutive" days on active duty.

ROA urges Congress to support the **DRIVE Act** to adequately address longstanding concerns regarding the access to and quality of service earned benefits and support programs for reserve component members past and present and their families.