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[H.R. 2835, Border Jobs for Veterans Act, as amended](#)

FLOOR SITUATION

On Monday, September 28, 2015, the House will consider [H.R. 2835](#), *the Border Jobs for Veterans Act of 2015, as amended*, under suspension of the rules. H.R. 2835 was introduced on June 18, 2015 by Rep. Martha McSally (R-AZ) and was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition, to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUMMARY

H.R. 2835 requires the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, to use existing authorities, programs, and agreements to enhance DHS efforts to recruit members of the Armed Forces who are separating from military service to serve as Customs and Border Protection Officers (CBPOs).

The bill requires the DHS Secretary, not later than 180 days after enactment, to provide Congress a description and assessment of DHS efforts to hire separating service members as CBPOs. The bill specifies the contents of that report, which must include the number of CBPO vacancies filled by separating service members.

BACKGROUND

CBPOs at ports of entry carry out critical law enforcement duties associated with screening foreign visitors, returning American citizens, and imported cargo entering the United States.¹ Congress has provided funding for 23,775 CBPOs for fiscal year 2015.² There are an estimated 250,000 to 300,000 members of the Armed Forces that separate from military service each year.³

According to the bill sponsor, “I’ve met with CBP officers at our ports and have repeatedly heard from them how inadequate staffing levels restrict their ability to do their jobs. Understaffing at our ports slows trade coming across the border and, ultimately, hurts our attractiveness as a transportation and

¹ See H.R. 2835, Sec. 2(1).

² Id. at Sec. 2(2).

³ Id. at Sec. 2(3).

trade hub, something we cannot afford. This bill will help boost staffing along our border while giving our separating service members a leg up as they look to enter the civilian workforce.”⁴

COST

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost estimate is currently unavailable.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information please contact [Jerry White](#) with the House Republican Policy Committee by email or at 5-0190.

⁴ See Press Release—“[U.S. Rep. McSally to Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Promote Border Jobs to U.S. Veterans](#),” June 17, 2015.