

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8298

To direct the Secretary of Defense to develop a plan to ensure reasonable access to the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 7, 2022

Mr. BACON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to develop a plan to ensure reasonable access to the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Junior Reserve Offi-
5 cers' Training Corps Expansion Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. PLAN TO ENSURE REASONABLE ACCESS TO THE**
7 **JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING**
8 **CORPS.**

9 (a) PLAN REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense, in
10 consultation with the Secretaries of the military depart-

1 ments, shall develop a plan to increase the total number
2 of units of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps
3 to ensure that there is reasonable access to such units in
4 each geographic region of the United States by not later
5 than September 30, 2031.

6 (b) ELEMENTS.—The plan required under subsection
7 (a) shall include the following:

8 (1) A proposal to increase the total number of
9 units of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps
10 to ensure reasonable access for students throughout
11 the United States.

12 (2) The estimated cost of implementing the pro-
13 posed increase in the number of such units.

14 (3) A prioritized list of the States and regions
15 in which the Secretary proposes adding additional
16 units.

17 (4) Actions the Secretary expects to carry out
18 to ensure adequate representation and fair access to
19 such units for students in all regions of the United
20 States, including rural and remote areas and in
21 underrepresented States.

22 (5) To the extent appropriate, modifications to
23 the requirements for such units, including the re-
24 quirements applicable to instructors, to accommo-
25 date units in rural areas and small schools.

1 (6) A plan to increase school and community
2 awareness of Junior Reserve Officers' Training
3 Corps programs in underrepresented areas.

4 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
5 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
6 shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the
7 Senate and the House of Representatives a report that
8 includes the plan developed under subsection (a).

9 (d) REASONABLE ACCESS DEFINED.—In this section,
10 the term “reasonable access”, when used with respect to
11 units of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps,
12 means a level of access determined by the Secretary of
13 Defense to be reasonable taking into account the demand
14 for student participation, the availability of instructors,
15 and the physical distance between units.

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