SEC. __. AMENDMENTS TO THE APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCESS UNDER THE TROOPS-TO-TEACHERS PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS OF THE RETIRED RESERVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2)(B) of section 1154(d) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting "(A)(iii)," after "A(i),";

(2) by inserting "transferred to the Retired Reserve, or" after "member is retired,"; and

(3) by striking "separated," and inserting "separated".

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The second sentence of paragraph (3)(D) of such section is amended—

(1) by inserting ", the transfer of the member to the Retired Reserve," after "retirement of the member"; and

(2) by inserting "transfer," after "after the retirement,".

[Please note: The "Changes to Existing Law" section below sets out in red-line format how the legislative text would amend existing law.]

Section-by-Section Analysis

This proposal would amend chapter 58 of title 10, United States Code, section 1154(d)(2)(B), to require that members transferred to the Retired Reserve, who wish to submit applications to participate in the Troops to Teachers (TTT) Program must do so not later than three years after the date of the transfer. The amendment applies the "not later than three years" application submission requirement to members transferred to the Retired Reserve in the same way the requirement currently applies to eligible members who are retired, separated, or released from active duty.

Currently, only members of the Retired Reserve may apply to the TTT Program beyond the three-year application submission requirement, which results in additional cost to the Department. The time needed to research a member's record to determine the member's Retired Reserve status is very labor-intensive, which delays the member's pursuit of a teacher credential and subsequent employment as a teacher, and is costly to the Government, which may be paying

unemployment benefits to the retired member. Since 2011, 3,050 retired members have applied for financial assistance under the TTT Program beyond the three-year application submission requirement due to misunderstanding both their eligibility as a retired reservist and the three-year application submission requirement. Further, it is difficult for the TTT Program administrators to determine whether these members were retired or transferred to the Retired Reserve. Amending section 1154(d)(2)(B) to apply the three-year application submission requirement would eliminate the added costs of determining the retired reservist's status. The 3,050 retired members that applied for financial assistance through the TTT Program beyond the three-year application submission requirement have cost the Department over $200K in manpower effort to review and process applications. As a result of the misunderstanding regarding retired reservist eligibility and the three-year application submission requirement, the Department approved financial assistance for ineligible individuals that could have been allocated for eligible members.

Budget Implications: As determining eligibility for retired reservist is labor-intensive and costly for all parties involved, updating the law to ensure eligibility requirements are the same for all TTT applicants would make the eligibility determination process less burdensome and costly to the Federal Government. This is funded in the FY 2019 President's Budget request.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS ($MILLIONS) – 10 U.S.C. CHANGE									
	FY 2019	**FY 2020**	**FY 2021**	**FY 2022**	**FY 2023**	**Appropriation From**	**Budget Activity**	**Dash-1 Line Item**	**Program Element**
Defense-Wide	-.034	-.034	-.034	-.034	-.034	Operation and Maintenance, Defense-wide	04	4GTJ	0808718BT
Total	-.034	-.034	-.034	-.034	-.034				

Changes to Existing Law: This section would make the following changes in provisions of existing law:

TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE

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§1154. Assistance to eligible members and former members to obtain employment as teachers: Troops-to-Teachers Program

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(d) ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION PROCESS.—

(1) ELIGIBLE MEMBERS.—The following members of the armed forces are eligible for selection to participate in the Program:

(A) Any member who-

(i) on or after October 1, 1999, becomes entitled to retired or retainer pay under this title or title 14;

(ii) has an approved date of retirement that is within one year after the date on which the member submits an application to participate in the Program; or

(iii) has been transferred to the Retired Reserve.

(B) Any member who, on or after January 8, 2002-

(i)(I) is separated or released from active duty after four or more years of continuous active duty immediately before the separation or release; or

(II) has completed a total of at least six years of active duty service, six years of service computed under section 12732 of this title, or six years of any combination of such service; and

(ii) executes a reserve commitment agreement for a period of not less than three years under paragraph (5)(B).

(C) Any member who, on or after January 8, 2002, is retired or separated for physical disability under chapter 61 of this title.

(2) SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS.—(A) Selection of eligible members of the armed forces to participate in the Program shall be made on the basis of applications submitted to the Secretary within the time periods specified in subparagraph (B). An application shall be in such form and contain such information as the Secretary may require.

(B) In the case of an eligible member of the armed forces described in subparagraph (A)(i), (A)(iii), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1), an application shall be considered to be submitted on a timely basis if the application is submitted not later than three years after the date on which the member is retired, transferred to the Retired Reserve, or separated~~,~~ or released from active duty, whichever applies to the member.

(3) SELECTION CRITERIA; EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND REQUIREMENTS; HONORABLE SERVICE REQUIREMENT.—(A) The Secretary shall prescribe the criteria to be used to select eligible members of the armed forces to participate in the Program.

(B) If a member of the armed forces is applying for the Program to receive assistance for placement as an elementary school or secondary school teacher, the Secretary shall require the member to have received a baccalaureate or advanced degree from an accredited institution of higher education.

(C) If a member of the armed forces is applying for the Program to receive assistance for placement as a career or technical teacher, the Secretary shall require the member-

(i) to have received the equivalent of one year of college from an accredited institution of higher education or the equivalent in military education and training as certified by the Department of Defense; or

(ii) to otherwise meet the certification or licensing requirements for a career or technical teacher in the State in which the member seeks assistance for placement under the Program.

(D) A member of the armed forces is eligible to participate in the Program only if the member's last period of service in the armed forces was honorable, as characterized by the Secretary concerned. A member selected to participate in the Program before the retirement of the member, the transfer of the member to the Retired Reserve, or the separation or release of the member from active duty may continue to participate in the Program after the retirement, transfer, separation, or release only if the member's last period of service is characterized as honorable by the Secretary concerned.

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