

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing the General Assembly's Putting Veterans to Work Initiative.

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Kentucky has an unrivaled heritage of military service and has never hesitated to send its sons and daughters across the globe in defense of freedom and liberty; and

WHEREAS, the world's ever-evolving political landscape has continued to challenge the United States military with increasingly dangerous missions and has required enormous sacrifice from America's service men and women as well as their families; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky has always been a state that champions the needs and well-being of its veterans, and the General Assembly has led the way through the Putting Veterans to Work Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the United States military is the most technologically advanced fighting force the world has ever seen, and its service members are given the best training in a variety of professional skills and occupations that are similar to professions licensed in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, during recent years the General Assembly, through its Putting Veterans to Work Initiative, has passed legislation making it easier for veterans who performed professional occupations in the military, such as firefighters, emergency medical technicians, HVAC professionals, and commercial truck drivers, to become licensed in those occupations in Kentucky by taking into account the experience gained during their military service; and

WHEREAS, beginning with House Bill 375 of the 2013 Regular Session, which was passed by the General Assembly as an amendment to another bill and signed into law by the Governor, the Putting Veterans to Work Initiative directed professional occupational licensing and certification boards and commissions to identify military occupational specialties that are similar to professional occupations in Kentucky, and

evaluate military training and service to determine their applicability towards the education, training, and experience requirements of professional occupations under their respective purviews; and

WHEREAS, after lengthy deployments and years of military service, the challenge of finding a job should not be a burden for veterans to bear. Yet many veterans find difficulty re-entering the civilian workforce for various reasons, among them being occupational licensure impediments for military service members; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly will continue advancing the Putting Veterans to Work Initiative to fill the skills gap in Kentucky with professionally trained veterans needed by the Commonwealth's employers;

NOW, THEREFORE,

***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:***

➔Section 1. The General Assembly honors all of the veterans of the Commonwealth and expresses its persistent enthusiasm for the Putting Veterans to Work Initiative.

➔Section 2. The House of Representatives and the Senate do hereby urge all agencies in the Commonwealth that issue occupational licenses or certifications to join the Putting Veterans to Work Initiative, and evaluate military occupations, training and experience to determine if they may be applicable to the training and experience requirements of professional occupations in Kentucky.

➔Section 3. All professional occupational licensing and certification boards in Kentucky are encouraged to report their progress with implementing the goals of the Putting Veterans to Work Initiative to the General Assembly.