

# 2015 SESSION

INTRODUCED

15103261D

## HOUSE BILL NO. 2133

Offered January 14, 2015

Prefiled January 14, 2015

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 2.2-2001.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Department of Veterans Services; programs to create employment opportunities for veterans and assist transitioning veterans.*

Patrons—Mason, Helsel, Murphy and Rasoul

Referred to Committee on General Laws

### **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 2.2-2001.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 2.2-2001.2. Programs to create employment opportunities for veterans and assist transitioning veterans.**

A. The Department shall ~~develop~~ *establish* a comprehensive program to ~~reduce unemployment among~~ *create employment opportunities for* veterans by assisting businesses to attract, hire, ~~train~~, and retain veterans. Such program shall promote strategies for connecting employers to qualified veterans and include (i) a workforce ~~assessment~~ *education* and training program for participating employers and (ii) a certification process for participating employers with the objective of setting measurable goals for hiring and retaining veterans. *Members of the Virginia National Guard and Virginia residents in the Armed Forces Reserves not in active federal service shall be eligible for the program established under this subsection.*

B. *The Department shall establish a program to assist transitioning veterans in connecting with employment, education, and entrepreneurial opportunities and to educate participating veterans and veteran services providers about available resources and opportunities. Former members of the Virginia National Guard and of the Armed Forces Reserves shall be eligible for the program established under this subsection provided such members (i) were discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable and (ii) the discharge or release from the Virginia National Guard or the Armed Forces Reserves occurred less than one year prior to the date on which assistance is being sought.*

*As used in this subsection, "transitioning veteran" means a veteran who was discharged or released from active service less than one year prior to the date on which assistance is being sought.*

INTRODUCED

HB2133