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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this bill is to eliminate the present exclusion of females from the minimum number of 100 students necessary to maintain a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps unit. Current law requires that only male students be counted. This bill would permit females to be counted, a change wholly consistent with military services policy of full and equal opportunity in the Armed Forces. It is viewed as a logical extension of the college Reserve Officer Training Corps program, already accepting the enrollment of women. The committee on Armed Services, on October 2, 1973, a quorum being present, recommended enactment of H.R. 8187 without an amendment. No increased cost will result from enactment of this bill. The Department of the Navy, in behalf of the Department of Defense, strongly recommends enactment of this legislation. (Author/MW)

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ENHANCING FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN THE JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS PROGRAM

OCTOBER 2, 1973.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. FISHER, from the Committee on Armed Services, submitted the following

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 8187]

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The committee on Armed Services, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 8187). To amend section 2031(b)(1) of title 10, United States Code, to remove the requirement that a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps unit at any institution must have a minimum number of physically fit male students, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to eliminate the present exclusion of females from the minimum number of 100 students necessary to maintain a Junior ROTC unit.

EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

The history of Junior ROTC dates back to 1916 when the National Defense Act provided a junior course for non-collegiate military schools, high schools and other preparatory schools. The Army implemented the program and by 1963, student enrollment was just under 60,000 in 254 Junior ROTC units. The present day program is based on Public Law 88-647, the ROTC Vitalization Act of 1964 which requires the Secretary of each of the Military Departments to establish Junior ROTC units. The current law prescribes a maximum of 1,200 units to be distributed equitably throughout the nation. A minimum of 100 physically-fit male students, at least 14 years of age and citizens of the United States, are necessary for the maintenance of a unit. Schools are required to provide adequate facilities for classrooms, equipment storage space and drill areas, and conduct as a minimum, a three-year course of instruction. The services are required to

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provide necessary texts, equipment and uniforms, and to establish the minimum performance standards for their units.

The Junior ROTC has a dual purpose—to develop and promote the personal obligations of American citizenship and to provide an orientation to our National Defense system. The program seeks to develop a sense of responsibility and such personal qualities as integrity, loyalty and discipline. It gives each student the opportunity to acquire basic leadership knowledge and skills that will serve him well through his life, regardless of whether he desires to continue his military education or not.

A Junior ROTC program is established and maintained at the request of the host school. Enrollment is entirely voluntary and the student incurs no military obligation by participating in the program. We believe that Junior ROTC not only provides a valuable addition to the host school curriculum but affords the entire student body, school officials and members of the community an opportunity to learn of the Armed Forces' role in the National Defense system.

Subsequent to the passage of the 1964 law, the Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force started Junior ROTC programs of their own. The result has been a moderate expansion based upon the popularity of the curriculum. In this school year, a total of 1,197 units are operational, including 650 Army, 275 Air Force, 223 Navy and 49 Marine Corps.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals conducted a survey of the reaction of high school principals to the Junior ROTC in 1971. The results of the survey indicated a very favorable attitude within the high school community for the program.

As a result of interest by the military services during 1971, the Air Force was asked to conduct a sample survey of high school officials and students concerning participation by girls in Junior ROTC. Responses from 160 principals, 6,700 girls and 2,700 Air Force Junior ROTC cadets indicated that an overwhelming majority believed that girls should be allowed to participate. As a direct result, girls were permitted to participate beginning last academic year although, in fact, they could not be counted as official enrollees because of the wording of the law. Because this change in policy did not become effective until after many schools recessed for the summer and was an option of the school administrator, participation by girls last year was limited. Nevertheless, about 12,500 girls participated in the program out of a total enrollment of 150,000. This year's indications are that the participation of girls has been much more widely popularized. Although official enrollment figures will not be available until late in November, there will probably be about 30,000 or more girls in a program of 170,000.

H.R. 8187 will permit girls to be officially enrolled in the program in addition to participating. This change is wholly consistent with the policies of the military services who have removed many of the barriers to full and equal opportunity in the Armed Forces. Additionally, it is viewed as a logical extension of the college Reserve Officer Training Corps program in which women are already accepted for enrollment. Also, there is no reason why girls cannot enroll on the same basis as boys, to be counted toward the minimum of 100 necessary to maintain a unit.

COMMITTEE POSITION

The committee on Armed Services, on October 2, 1973, a quorum being present, recommends enactment of the bill, H.R. 8187, without an amendment.

FISCAL DATA

There will be no increased cost resulting from enactment of this bill within the Department of Defense budget for fiscal year 1974 in view of the fact that females have been permitted attendance at Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps units since September 1972.

DEPARTMENT POSITION

The Department of the Navy, in behalf of the Department of Defense, recommends enactment of this legislation. There is set out below a copy of the Department communication on H.R. 8187:

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY,
Washington, D.C., August 22, 1973.

Hon. F. EDWARD HÉBERT,
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Your request for comment on H.R. 8187, a bill "To amend section 2031(b)(1) of title 10, United States Code, to remove the requirement that a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps unit at any institution must have a minimum number of physically fit male students," has been assigned to this Department by the Secretary of Defense for the preparation of a report expressing the views of the Department of Defense.

The purpose of the bill is to eliminate the present exclusion of females from the minimum number of 100 students necessary to maintain a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps unit. The Department of the Navy, on behalf of the Department of Defense, concurs in the proposed legislation.

There will be no increased cost resulting from enactment of this bill within the Department of Defense budget for fiscal year 1974 in view of the fact that females have been permitted attendance at Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps units since September 1972.

This report has been coordinated within the Department of Defense in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that, from the standpoint of the administration's program, there is no objection to the presentation of this report on H.R. 8187, for the consideration of the committee.

For the Secretary of the Navy,

Sincerely yours,

E. H. WILLETT,
Captain, U.S. Navy, Deputy Chief.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with clause 3 of rule XII of the House of Representatives, there is herewith printed in parallel columns the text of provisions of existing law which would be repealed or amended by the various provisions of the bill as reported.

EXISTING LAW

Chapter 102.—Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps
§ 2031. Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps

(a) The Secretary of each military department shall establish and maintain a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, organized into units, at public and private secondary educational institutions which apply for a unit to this meet the standards and criteria prescribed pursuant to this section. Not more than 200 units may be established by all of the military departments each year beginning with

THE BILL AS REPORTED

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 2031 (b) (1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking out the word "male" immediately before "students".



the calendar year 1966, and the total number of units which may be established and maintained by all of the military departments under authority of this section, including those units already established on the date of enactment of this section, may not exceed 1,200. The President shall promulgate regulations prescribing the standards and criteria to be followed by the military departments in selecting the institutions at which units are to be established and maintained and shall provide for the fair and equitable distribution of such units throughout the Nation.

(b) No unit may be established or maintained at an institution unless—

(1) the unit contains at least 100 physically fit male students who are at least 14 years of age and are citizens of the United States;

SUMMARY OF THE BILL

PURPOSE

The purpose of this bill is to eliminate the present exclusion of females from the minimum number of 100 students necessary to maintain a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps unit.

EXPLANATION

Current law requires that only male students be counted toward the minimum number of 100 students to maintain a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps unit. This bill would permit females to count in this minimum number.

COMMITTEE POSITION

The committee on Armed Services, on October 2, 1973, a quorum being present, recommends enactment of H.R. 8187 without an amendment.

FISCAL DATA

There will be no increased cost resulting from enactment of this bill.

DEPARTMENT POSITION

The Department of the Navy, in behalf of the Department of Defense, strongly recommends enactment of this legislation.

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