

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 11, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 1, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 14, 2016

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1227**

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**Introduced by Senator Lara**

February 18, 2016

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An act to add Section 14302.5 to the Public Resources Code, relating to conservation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1227, as amended, Lara. California Conservation Corps.

Existing law establishes the California Conservation Corps in the Natural Resources Agency and requires the corps to implement and administer the conservation corps program. Existing law requires the corps, in conjunction with the Employment Development Department, to place an emphasis on developing and executing plans to assist corpsmembers in obtaining employment following their participation in the corps program.

This bill would additionally require the corps to collaborate with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Employment Development Department to assist any corpsmember who is a veteran of the United States Armed Forces in obtaining employment after participating in the corps program. The bill would specify that the collaboration efforts by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Employment Development Department shall include, but not be limited to, *providing access to* veterans supportive services and workforce services, respectively.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3 (a) California has the largest veteran population in the country  
4 with 1.9 million former servicemen and servicewomen.

5 (b) Veterans between the ages of 18 and 34 years have a higher  
6 unemployment rate than their civilian peers.

7 (c) The California Conservation Corps provides young veterans  
8 with a unique opportunity to transition into the civilian workforce  
9 and various workforce training opportunities, including maintaining  
10 hiking trails, planting trees, and assisting in emergency response  
11 situations by, among other things, fighting fires, floods,  
12 earthquakes, and pest infestations.

13 (d) By statute, the Employment Development Department,  
14 working with the California Conservation Corps, provides  
15 transitional services for all corpsmembers.

16 (e) The Department of Veterans Affairs provides *assistance to*  
17 ~~access to~~ various supportive services and benefits for veterans,  
18 including ~~healthcare~~ *healthcare*, tuition assistance, and home loans.

19 (f) Most young veterans do not use the state benefits afforded  
20 to them through their military service.

21 (g) Bringing the Department of Veterans Affairs into the  
22 transitional process for young veterans exiting the California  
23 Conservation Corps will connect young veterans with the benefits  
24 they have earned, support the current efforts of the California  
25 Conservation Corps and the Employment Development  
26 Department, and ensure that those young veterans smoothly  
27 transition from corpsmembership into the civilian workforce.

28 SEC. 2. Section 14302.5 is added to the Public Resources Code,  
29 to read:

30 14302.5. (a) The corps shall collaborate with the Department  
31 of Veterans Affairs and the Employment Development Department  
32 to assist any corpsmember who is a veteran of the United States  
33 Armed Forces in obtaining employment after participating in the  
34 corps program.

35 (b) Collaboration efforts by the Department of Veterans Affairs  
36 shall include, but not be limited to, *providing access to* veterans  
37 supportive services. Collaboration efforts by the Employment

- 1 Development Department shall include, but not be limited to,
- 2 *providing access to* workforce services.

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