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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

{ REPORT
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JOHN S. McCAIN
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

CONFERENCE REPORT

TO ACCOMPANY

H.R. 5515



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Report on potential improvements to certain military educational institutions of the Department of Defense

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1050) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives no later than December 1, 2019, reviewing educational institutions of the Department of Defense (DOD). The review would be conducted by an outside organization with expertise in analyzing matters in connection with higher education.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recesses.

The conferees note that the Comptroller General of the United States is currently conducting a study at the direction of Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives related to the quality of curricula and faculty at Professional Military Education (PME) and Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) institutions. In addition to the questions addressed by that study, the conferees direct the Comptroller General to provide preliminary observations to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, no later than February 1, 2019, with a report to follow, that address the following additional questions:

(1) How do the admission standards and graduation requirements of the educational institutions of the DOD compare with the admission standards, graduation requirements, and graduation rates of public and private institutions of higher education?

(2) How do the goals and missions of the educational institutions of the DOD compare with the goal and missions of similar public and private institutions of higher education?

(3) How would modifications to admissions and graduation requirements affect the quality of education at PME and JPME institutions?

(4) How would modifications to the following policies or practices influence the quality of education at PME/JPME institutions?

a. Modification of admission and graduation requirements;

b. Reduction or expansion of degree-granting authority;

c. Reduction or expansion of the acceptance of research grants;

d. Reduction of class size generally;

e. Reduction of class size through increased sponsoring of military students at non-DOD higher education institutions;

f. Increase in the frequency of curriculum changes to account for emerging national defense issue; and

g. Modification of civilian faculty management and employment practices.

Expansion of definition of covered facility or asset for purposes of protection from unmanned aircraft

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1050B) that would expand the definition of covered facility or asset for the purposes of protection from unmanned aircraft.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recesses.