

**NINETY-EIGHTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Cincinnati, Ohio
August 30, 31, September 1, 2016**

Resolution No. 77: Support for the Military Transition Program

Origin: Texas

Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education

WHEREAS, In 1992, Congress enacted the Service Members Occupational Conversion and Training Act (SMOCTA) which became Public Law 102-484; and

WHEREAS, SMOCTA is a transition tool designed to provide job training and employment to certain veterans discharged from the military after August 1, 1990; and

WHEREAS, The SMOCTA program provides financial incentives to employers who hire and provide training to eligible veterans; and

WHEREAS, To be eligible for participation in the SMOCTA program, the veteran must meet at least one of the following criteria: (1) have a primary or secondary military occupational specialty that the Department of Defense has determined is not readily transferable to the civilian work force; or (2) be entitled to compensation (or would be entitled to compensation but for the receipt of military retired pay) for a Department of Veterans Affairs service-connected disability rating of 30 percent or more; or (3) be unemployed and have been unemployed for at least eight (8) of the last 15 work weeks before filing an application; and

WHEREAS, The veterans eligible for job training under SMOCTA are precisely those individuals who need the most assistance in making a successful transition to the civilian work force; and

WHEREAS, The Departments of Defense (DOD), Veterans Affairs (VA), and Labor (DOL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in March of 1993, which defined their roles and responsibilities in the implementation of SMOCTA; and

WHEREAS, DOD provided funding for SMOCTA while the VA and DOL were responsible for administering the program; and

WHEREAS, Under the terms of the MOU, the SMOCTA program will terminate when all the funds provided by DOD are expended or at such time as agreed upon by all parties; and

WHEREAS, This country's unemployment problem is being exacerbated by the drastic downsizing of the military; and

WHEREAS, The Military Transition Program can help to alleviate the employment problems faced by many veterans who are being separated from the military; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 30, 31, September 1, 2016, That The American Legion seek continuation of the Military Transition Program until the employment picture improves and the downsizing of the military is completed; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion seek adequate funding for the Military Transition Program so that it can achieve what it is designed to do.