

117TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H.R. 4104

To reform the disposition of charges and convening of courts-martial for certain offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and increase the prevention of sexual assaults and other crimes in the military.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 23, 2021

Ms. Speier (for herself, Mr. Turner, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Miller-Meeks, Mrs. Luria, Mr. Kelly of Mississippi, Ms. Escobar, Mr. Mullin, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. Hudson, Ms. Bass, Mrs. Beatty, Ms. Blunt ROCHESTER, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BUSH, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. Carson, Mr. Casten, Ms. Castor of Florida, Mr. Castro of Texas, Mr. Cicilline, Ms. Clark of Massachusetts, Mr. Cooper, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CROW, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. Delauro, Ms. Delbene, Mr. Deutch, Mr. Doggett, Ms. Eshoo, Ms. Lois Frankel of Florida, Mr. Gallego, Mr. Garamendi, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. Jacobs of California, Ms. Schakowsky, Mr. Jones, Ms. Kaptur, Mr. Keating, Mr. Khanna, Ms. Kuster, Mr. Langevin, Mr. Larson of Connecticut, Ms. Lee of California, Mrs. Lee of Nevada, Ms. Leger FERNANDEZ, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. Manning, Ms. Matsui, Mrs. McBath, Ms. McCollum, Mr. McGovern, Mr. McNerney, Ms. Moore of Wisconsin, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. Quigley, Mr. Raskin, Ms. Roybal-Allard, Ms. Sánchez, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. STRICK-LAND, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TRONE, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. Barragán, Ms. Jackson Lee, Mr. Cartwright, Ms. Adams, Mr. Bishop of Georgia, Mr. Butterfield, Mr. Cleaver, Mr. Correa, Ms. Degette, Mrs. Demings, Mrs. Dingell, Mr. Evans, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. PIN-GREE, Ms. Plaskett, Mr. Vargas, Mr. Thompson of Mississippi, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Ms. CRAIG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To reform the disposition of charges and convening of courtsmartial for certain offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and increase the prevention of sexual assaults and other crimes in the military.

1	Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2	tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
3	SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
4	This Act may be cited as the "Vanessa Guillén Mili-
5	tary Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention
6	Act".
7	SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENT OF DETERMINATIONS ON DISPOSI-
8	TION OF CHARGES FOR CERTAIN OFFENSES
9	UNDER UCMJ WITH AUTHORIZED MAXIMUM
10	SENTENCE OF CONFINEMENT OF MORE THAN
11	ONE YEAR.
12	(a) Improvement of Determinations.—
13	(1) MILITARY DEPARTMENTS.—With respect to
14	charges under chapter 47 of title 10, United States
15	Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice), that
16	allege an offense specified in subsection (b) and not
17	excluded under subsection (c), the Secretary of De-
18	fense shall require the Secretaries of the military de-
19	partments to provide as described in subsection (d)

	<u> </u>
1	(A) Determinations under section 830 of
2	such chapter (article 30 of the Uniform Code of
3	Military Justice) on the preferral of charges.
4	(B) Determinations under section 830 of
5	such chapter (article 30 of the Uniform Code of
6	Military Justice) on the disposition of charges
7	(C) Determinations under sections 822
8	and 823 of such chapter (articles 22 and 23 of
9	the Uniform Code of Military Justice) on the
10	referral of charges (as that term is defined in
11	section 834(d) of such chapter (article 34(d) of
12	the Uniform Code of Military Justice)).
13	(2) Homeland security.—With respect to
14	charges under chapter 47 of title 10, United States
15	Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice), that
16	allege an offense specified in subsection (b) and not
17	excluded under subsection (c) against a member of
18	the Coast Guard (when it is not operating as a serv-
19	ice in the Navy), the Secretary of Homeland Secu-
20	rity shall provide as described in subsection (d) for
21	the determinations as follows:
22	(A) Determinations under section 830 of
23	such chapter (article 30 of the Uniform Code of

Military Justice) on the preferral of charges.

- 1 (B) Determinations under section 830 of 2 such chapter (article 30 of the Uniform Code of 3 Military Justice) on the disposition of charges.
 - (C) Determinations under sections 822 and 823 of such chapter (articles 22 and 23 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice) on the referral of charges (as that term is defined in section 834(d) of such chapter (article 34(d) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice)).
- 10 (3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This section 11 shall not be construed to terminate or otherwise 12 alter the authorities enumerated in any articles of 13 the Uniform Code of Military Justice other than ar-14 ticles 22, 23, and 30 (10 U.S.C. 822, 823, and 830).
- 15 (b) COVERED OFFENSES.—An offense specified in 16 this subsection is an offense as follows:
- 17 (1)(A) Offenses under the following sections of 18 chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (the Uni-19 form Code of Military Justice), for which the max-20 imum punishment authorized under that chapter in-21 cludes confinement for more than one year: sections 22 893a, 917a, 918, 919, 919a, 919b, 920, 920a, 920b, 23 920c, 921, 921a, 921b, 922, 924, 924a, 924b, 925, 24 926, 927, 928(b) and (c), 928a, 928b, 930, 931, 25 931a, 931b, 931c, 931d, 931e, 931f, 931g, and 932

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- 1 (articles 93a, 117a, 118, 119, 119a, 119b, 120,
- 2 120a, 120b, 120c, 121, 121a, 121b, 122, 124, 124a,
- 3 124b, 125, 126, 127, 128(b) and (c), 128a, 128b,
- 4 130, 131, 131a, 131b, 131c, 131d, 131e, 131f,
- 5 131g, and 132, respectively, of the Uniform Code of
- 6 Military Justice).
- (B) The offenses of child pornography, negligent homicide, indecent conduct, indecent language communicated to any child under the age of 16 years, and pandering and prostitution, as punishable under the general punitive article in 934 of such
- title (article 134 of the Uniform Code of Military
- 13 Justice).
- 14 (2) A conspiracy to commit an offense specified 15 in paragraph (1) as punishable under section 881 of 16 title 10, United States Code (article 81 of the Uni-
- form Code of Military Justice).
- 18 (3) A solicitation to commit an offense specified 19 in paragraph (1) as punishable under section 882 of 20 title 10, United States Code (article 82 of the Uni-
- form Code of Military Justice).
- 22 (4) An attempt to commit an offense specified
- in paragraph (1) as punishable under section 880 of
- title 10, United States Code (article 80 of the Uni-
- form Code of Military Justice).

- 1 (c) EXCLUDED OFFENSES.—Subsection (a) does not 2 apply to an offense as follows:
- 3 (1) An offense under sections 883 through 917 4 of title 10, United States Code (articles 83 through 5 117 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), but 6 not an offense under section 893a of such title (arti-7 cle 93a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).
 - (2) An offense under section 922a, 923, 923a, or 928(a) of title 10, United States Code (articles 122a, 123, 123a, and 128(a) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).
 - (3) An offense under section 933 or 934 of title 10, United States Code (articles 133 and 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), but not the offense of child pornography, negligent homicide, indecent conduct, indecent language communicated to any child under the age of 16 years, or pandering and prostitution as punishable under the general punitive article in section 934 of such title (article 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).
 - (4) A conspiracy to commit an offense specified in paragraphs (1) through (3) as punishable under section 881 of title 10, United States Code (article 81 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

1	(5) A solicitation to commit an offense specified
2	in paragraphs (1) through (3) as punishable under
3	section 882 of title 10, United States Code (article
4	82 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).
5	(6) An attempt to commit an offense specified
6	in paragraphs (1) through (3) as punishable under
7	section 880 of title 10, United States Code (article
8	80 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).
9	(d) Requirements and Limitations.—The dis-
10	position of charges covered by subsection (a) shall be sub-
11	ject to the following:
12	(1) The determination whether to cause charges
13	to be preferred or refer such charges to a court-mar-
14	tial for trial, as applicable, shall be made by a com-
15	missioned officer of the Armed Forces designated as
16	a court-martial convening authority in accordance
17	with regulations prescribed for purposes of this sub-
18	section from among commissioned officers of the
19	Armed Forces in grade O-6 or higher who—
20	(A) are available for detail as trial counse
21	under section 827 of title 10, United States
22	Code (article 27 of the Uniform Code of Mili-
23	tary Justice);
24	(B) have significant experience in trials by
25	general or special court-martial; and

- 1 (C) are outside the chain of command of 2 the member subject to such charges.
 - (2) Upon a determination under paragraph (1) to refer charges to a court-martial for trial, the officer making that determination shall determine whether to refer such charges for trial by a general court-martial convened under section 822 of title 10, United States Code (article 22 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), or a special court-martial convened under section 823 of title 10, United States Code (article 23 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).
 - (3) A determination under paragraph (1) to cause charges to be preferred or refer charges to a court-martial for trial, as applicable, shall cover all known offenses, including lesser included offenses.
 - (4) The determination to cause charges to be preferred or refer charges to a court-martial for trial, as applicable, under paragraph (1), and the type of court-martial to which to refer under paragraph (2), shall be binding on any applicable convening authority for the referral of such charges.
 - (5) The actions of an officer described in paragraph (1) in determining under that paragraph whether or not to cause charges to be preferred or

- refer charges to a court-martial for trial, as applicable, shall be free of unlawful or unauthorized influence or coercion.
 - (6) The determination under paragraph (1) not to refer charges to a general or special court-martial for trial shall not operate to terminate or otherwise alter the authority of commanding officers to refer charges for trial by special court-martial under section 823 of title 10, United States Code (article 23 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice) or summary court-martial convened under section 824 of title 10, United States Code (article 24 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), or to impose non-judicial punishment in connection with the conduct covered by such charges as authorized by section 815 of title 10, United States Code (article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).
 - (7) The determination under paragraph (1) to refer charges to a general or special court-martial shall not be subject to section 834 of title 10, United States Code (article 34 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), provided that the officer making the determination determines that—
- 24 (A) the specification alleges an offense 25 under the Uniform Code of Military Justice;

1	(B) there is probable cause to believe that
2	the accused committed the offense charged; and
3	(C) a court-martial would have jurisdiction
4	over the accused and the offense.
5	(e) Construction With Charges on Other Of-
6	FENSES.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to
7	alter or affect the preferral, disposition, or referral author-
8	ity of charges under chapter 47 of title 10, United States
9	Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice), that allege
10	an offense for which the maximum punishment authorized
11	under that chapter includes confinement for one year or
12	less, except for the offenses of child pornography, neg-
13	ligent homicide, indecent conduct, indecent language com-
14	municated to any child under the age of 16 years, and
15	pandering and prostitution as punishable under the gen-
16	eral punitive article in section 934 of such title (article
17	134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).
18	(f) Policies and Procedures.—
19	(1) In general.—The Secretaries of the mili-
20	tary departments and the Secretary of Homeland
21	Security (with respect to the Coast Guard when it
22	is not operating as a service in the Navy) shall re-
23	vise policies and procedures as necessary to comply
24	with this section.

- 1 (2) Uniformity.—The General Counsel of the 2 Department of Defense and the General Counsel of 3 the Department of Homeland Security shall jointly 4 review the policies and procedures revised under this 5 subsection in order to ensure that any lack of uni-6 formity in policies and procedures, as so revised, 7 among the military departments and the Depart-8 ment of Homeland Security does not render uncon-9 stitutional any policy or procedure, as so revised.
- 10 (g) Manual for Courts-Martial.—The Secretary
 11 of Defense shall recommend such changes to the Manual
 12 for Courts-Martial as are necessary to ensure compliance
 13 with this section.
- (h) Improved Specialization of Criminal Inves-15 tigators.—The Secretary of Defense shall revise policies 16 and procedures as necessary to improve specialization of 17 criminal investigators to help increase the efficiency and 18 effectiveness of sexual assault and domestic violence inves-19 tigations.

1	SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF OFFICERS AUTHORIZED TO CON-
2	VENE GENERAL AND SPECIAL COURTS-MAR-
3	TIAL FOR CERTAIN OFFENSES UNDER UCMJ
4	WITH AUTHORIZED MAXIMUM SENTENCE OF
5	CONFINEMENT OF MORE THAN ONE YEAR.
6	(a) In General.—Subsection (a) of section 822 of
7	title 10, United States Code (article 22 of the Uniform
8	Code of Military Justice), is amended—
9	(1) by redesignating paragraphs (8) and (9) as
10	paragraphs (9) and (10), respectively; and
11	(2) by inserting after paragraph (7) the fol-
12	lowing new paragraph (8):
13	"(8) with respect to offenses to which section
14	2(a) of the Military Justice Improvement and In-
15	creasing Prevention Act of 2021 applies, the officers
16	in the offices established pursuant to section 3(c) of
17	that Act or officers in the grade of O-6 or higher
18	who are assigned such responsibility by the Chief of
19	Staff of the Army, the Chief of Naval Operations,
20	the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, the Com-
21	mandant of the Marine Corps, or the Commandant
22	of the Coast Guard;".
23	(b) No Exercise by Officers in Chain of Com-
24	MAND OF ACCUSED OR VICTIM.—Such section (article) is
25	further amended by adding at the end the following new
26	subsection:

1	"(c) An officer specified in subsection (a)(8) may not
2	convene a court-martial under this section if the officer
3	is in the chain of command of the accused or the victim.".
4	(c) Offices of Chiefs of Staff on Courts-Mar-
5	TIAL.—
6	(1) Offices required.—Each Chief of Staff
7	of the Armed Forces or Commandant specified in
8	paragraph (8) of section 822(a) of title 10, United
9	States Code (article 22(a) of the Uniform Code of
10	Military Justice), as amended by subsection (a),
11	shall establish an office to do the following:
12	(A) To convene general and special courts-
13	martial under sections 822 and 823 of title 10,
14	United States Code (articles 22 and 23 of the
15	Uniform Code of Military Justice), pursuant to
16	paragraph (8) of section 822(a) of title 10,
17	United States Code (article 22(a) of the Uni-
18	form Code of Military Justice), as so amended,
19	with respect to offenses to which section 2(a)
20	applies.
21	(B) To detail under section 825 of title 10,
22	United States Code (article 25 of the Uniform
23	Code of Military Justice), members of courts-
24	martial convened as described in subparagraph

(A).

1 (2) Personnel.—The personnel of each office established under paragraph (1) shall consist of such 2 3 members of the Armed Forces and civilian personnel of the Department of Defense, or such members of the Coast Guard or civilian personnel of the Depart-6 ment of Homeland Security, as may be detailed or 7 assigned to the office by the Chief of Staff or Com-8 mandant concerned. The members and personnel so 9 detailed or assigned, as the case may be, shall be de-10 tailed or assigned from personnel billets in existence 11 as of the effective date for this Act specified in sec-12 tion 10.

13 SEC. 4. DISCHARGE USING OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED PER-

- 14 SONNEL AND RESOURCES.
- 15 (a) In General.—The Secretaries of the military
- 16 departments and the Secretary of Homeland Security
- 17 (with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating
- 18 as a service in the Navy) shall carry out sections 2 and
- 19 3 using personnel, funds, and resources otherwise author-
- 20 ized by law.
- 21 (b) No Authorization of Additional Per-
- 22 SONNEL OR RESOURCES.—Sections 2 and 3 shall not be
- 23 construed as authorizations for personnel, personnel bil-
- 24 lets, or funds for the discharge of the requirements in such
- 25 sections.

1	SEC. 5. MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF MODIFICATION
2	OF AUTHORITIES BY DEFENSE ADVISORY
3	COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION, PROSECU-
4	TION, AND DEFENSE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT IN
5	THE ARMED FORCES.
6	Section 546(e) of the Carl Levin and Howard P.
7	"Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for
8	Fiscal Year 2015 (10 U.S.C. 1561 note) is amended—
9	(1) in paragraph (1)—
10	(A) by striking "on the investigation" and
11	inserting "on the following:
12	"(A) The investigation"; and
13	(B) by adding at the end the following new
14	subparagraph:
15	"(B) The implementation and efficacy of
16	sections 2 through 4 of the Military Justice Im-
17	provement and Increasing Prevention Act of
18	2021 and the amendments made by such sec-
19	tions."; and
20	(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "paragraph
21	(1)" and inserting "paragraph (1)(A)".
22	SEC. 6. LIMITATION ON MODIFICATIONS TO SEXUAL AS-
23	SAULT REPORTING PROCEDURES.
24	(a) In General.—The Secretary of Defense may not
25	amend section 4 of enclosure 4 of Department of Defense
26	Instruction (DoDI) 6495.02, relating to Sexual Assault

- 1 Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program Procedures, or
- 2 otherwise prescribe any regulations or guidance relating
- 3 to the treatment and handling of unrestricted and re-
- 4 stricted reports of sexual assault, until 30 days after noti-
- 5 fying the congressional defense committees of the pro-
- 6 posed amendment or modification.
- 7 (b) Congressional Defense Committees De-
- 8 FINED.—In this section, the term "congressional defense
- 9 committees" has the meaning given the term in section
- 10 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.
- 11 SEC. 7. PROFESSIONALIZATION OF MILITARY PROSECU-
- TORS.
- 13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall in-
- 14 crease enhanced and specialized training to certain pros-
- 15 ecutors on the proper conduct, presentation, and handling
- 16 of sexual assault and domestic violence cases.
- 17 (b) Report.—Not later than one year after the date
- 18 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
- 19 shall submit to the congressional defense committees a re-
- 20 port on the program implemented under subsection (a).
- 21 SEC. 8. INCREASED TRAINING AND EDUCATION ON MILI-
- 22 TARY SEXUAL ASSAULT.
- 23 (a) Uniformed Officers and Senior Enlisted
- 24 Leaders.—

- (1) Uniformed officers.—All uniformed offi-cers of the military services shall be required within 2 years of the date of the enactment of this Act to complete training on military sexual assault preven-tion equivalent to that provided to Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocates before those officers may be considered for promotion to a grade at or above O-5. A portion of this training shall be in-person, facilitated training.
 - (2) Enlisted Leaders.—All senior enlisted leaders of the military services will be required within 2 years of the date of the enactment of this Act to complete a training on military sexual assault prevention equivalent to that provided to the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocates before enlisted service members may be considered for promotion to a grade at or above E–9. A portion of this training shall be in-person, facilitated training.

(b) Officer Candidates and ROTC.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The United States Army Cadet Command, the Naval Education and Training Command, the Air Education and Training Command, and the Coast Guard Recruiting Command shall carry out a program for increasing training on

- the prevention of military sexual assault within cadet
 ranks. A portion of this training shall be in-person,
 facilitated training.
 - (2) Report on Development of Plan.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the United States Army Cadet Command, the Naval Education and Training Command, the Air Education and Training Command, and the Coast Guard Recruiting Command shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the development of the program required under paragraph (1) and a plan for execution.
 - (3) Report on implementation.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the United States Army Cadet Command, the Naval Education and Training Command, the Air Education and Training Command, and the Coast Guard Recruiting Command shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the implementation of the program required under paragraph (1).

22 (c) MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMIES.—

(1) In general.—The Superintendents of the military service academies shall carry out additional military sexual assault prevent training and edu-

- cation at the academies. A portion of this training shall be in-person, facilitated training.
- 3 (2) Report.—The Secretary of Defense, in 4 consultation with the Superintendents of the military 5 service academies, shall submit a report to the con-6 gressional defense committees describing the addi-7 tional training and education implemented pursuant 8 to paragraph (1).

9 SEC. 9. INCREASING THE PHYSICAL SECURITY OF MILI-

10 TARY INSTALLATIONS.

- 11 (a) SURVEY.—Not later than one year after the date
- 12 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
- 13 shall conduct a survey of all lodging and living spaces on
- 14 military installations to identify, replace, or repair locking
- 15 mechanisms on points of entry, identify areas of installa-
- 16 tion of closed-circuit television (CCTV) security cameras,
- 17 and other passive security measures as necessary to in-
- 18 crease the prevention of crimes, including sexual assault,
- 19 on military installations.
- 20 (b) Report.—Not later than one year after the date
- 21 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
- 22 shall submit to the congressional defense committees a re-
- 23 port on the results of the survey conducted under sub-
- 24 section (a).

- 1 (c) Program.—Based on the results of the survey
- 2 conducted under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense
- 3 shall carry out a program for increasing the security of
- 4 all lodging and living spaces on military installations, in-
- 5 cluding replacing or repairing locking mechanisms on
- 6 points of entry, installation of CCTV security cameras,
- 7 and other passive security measures as necessary to in-
- 8 crease the prevention of crimes, including sexual assault,
- 9 on military installations.

10 SEC. 10. EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICABILITY.

- 11 (a) Effective Date and Applicability.—This
- 12 Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take ef-
- 13 fect one year after the date of the enactment of this Act,
- 14 and shall apply with respect to any allegation of charges
- 15 of an offense specified in subsection (b) of section 2, and
- 16 not excluded under subsection (c) of section 2, which of-
- 17 fense occurs on or after such effective date.
- 18 (b) Revisions of Policies and Procedures.—
- 19 Any revision of policies and procedures required of the
- 20 military departments or the Department of Homeland Se-
- 21 curity as a result of this part and the amendments made
- 22 by this part shall be completed so as to come into effect
- 23 together with the coming into effect of this Act and the

- 1 amendments made by this Act in accordance with sub-
- 2 section (a).

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