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CONGRESS APPROVES LEGISLATION REQUIRING USDOL TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS ON VETERANS' PRIORITY OF SERVICE

Congress recently approved legislation that require the U.S. Secretary of Labor develop regulations spelling out the prioritized delivery of workforce system services for veterans as first required under the Jobs for Veterans' Act (P.L. 107-288) approved on November 7, 2002. The bill is expected to be signed by President Bush before the beginning of the New Year. The approved legislation ([S. 3421](#) ) was pared significantly and bears little resemblance to its original form as many of the changes made over the past year were the result of input from the USDOL Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS).

Included in the approved bill is language requiring training of DVOPs and LVERs by the National Veterans' Training Institute (NVTI) within three years of their assignment. It clarifies rules for part-time employment of DVOPs and LVERs to reflect the current interpretation of the Jobs for Veterans' Act. The bill authorizes the Assistant Secretary of VETS to permit incentive awards for employment service offices and individuals, potentially broadening availability of the awards in some states.