

# INSTITUTE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **DOD Bill Advances Credentialing**

Rockville, Maryland (February 4, 2014) – The recently enacted National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2014, contains historic language on credentialing. The NDAA, signed into law by the President on December 26, 2013 contains language recognizing the importance of professional credentials and credentialing. “This will enable service members to obtain employment upon their return to the civilian workforce and indicates the increased importance of credentialing in general,” said IHMM Board Chair Allison A. King, “This law was a result of strong grassroots support for the troops including the broad support of the certificants of our organization.” IHMM Executive Director Jeffrey H. Greenwald added, “This law emphasizes the importance of credentialing to Capitol Hill and to the various federal agencies.”

The FY14 NDAA law seeks to correlate military experience with civilian training. Section 542 of the NDAA focuses on methods to connect skills and training obtained by service members to the requirements necessary to obtain professional credentials. Section 542 language will prepare service members and veterans to obtain a professional credential, which in turn will enable them to obtain well-paying careers in the private sector. This law’s language effectively connects the dots between military experience and the opportunity to obtain a professional credential.

IHMM is continuing the momentum achieved by the NDAA. The organization’s initiatives for 2014 include implementation of the NDAA, continued outreach to federal agencies, and the pursuit of aspirational agency guidance and official recognition. “IHMM seeks to use this powerful new public policy tool to maximize its benefit on behalf of returning service members,” Greenwald continued, and Board Chairman King added, “IHMM looks forward in continuing to build strong partnerships with federal agencies and forging partnerships that will make our ambitious vision a reality.”

Specifically, Section 542 of the NDAA would

- Make “information on civilian credentialing opportunities available to members of the Armed Forces” including details on the civilian occupational equivalents of military occupational specialties, or MOS codes.
- Enable service members to evaluate which training correlates with the skills and training required in connection with various civilian certifications and licenses.
- Provide improved access of “accredited civilian credentialing and related entities to military training content” for civilian credentialing agencies.
- Make information available concerning opportunities for the use of educational benefits available to service members, as well as corresponding training or continuing education that could prepare service members for a credentialing exam.

The inclusion of this language of Section 542 to the NDAA law is a major accomplishment for IHMM.

## **About the Institute of Hazardous Materials Management**

For over 25 years the Institute of Hazardous Materials Management, a not-for-profit organization founded in 1984, has been protecting the environment and the public’s health, safety, and security through the administration of credentials recognizing professionals who have demonstrated a high level of knowledge, expertise, and excellence in the management of hazardous materials.

Over 16,000 homeland security, environmental protection, engineering, health sciences, transportation, and public safety professionals have earned IHMM’s accredited Certified Hazardous Materials Manager credential. IHMM also administers the Certified Hazardous Materials Practitioner credential and the Hazardous Materials Manager-in-Training program.

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