115	TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION S.
То	enhance effective prosecution and defense in courts-martial, and for other purposes.
	IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
Mrs	. Ernst (for herself and Mrs. Gillibrand) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on
	A BILL
	To enhance effective prosecution and defense in courts- martial, and for other purposes.
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. ENHANCEMENT OF EFFECTIVE PROSECUTION
4	AND DEFENSE IN COURTS-MARTIAL AND RE-
5	LATED MATTERS.
6	(a) Additional Element in Program for Effec-
7	TIVE PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE.—Subsection (a)(1) of
8	section 542 of the National Defense Authorization Act for

9 Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–329; 130 Stat. 2126;

10 10 U.S.C. 827 note) is amended by inserting before the

- 1 semicolon the following: "or there is adequate supervision2 and oversight of trial counsel and defense counsel so de-
- 3 tailed to ensure effective prosecution and defense in the
- 4 court-martial".
- 5 (b) Assignment of Civilian Employees to Su-
- 6 PERVISE LESS EXPERIENCED JUDGE ADVOCATES IN
- 7 Prosecution and Defense.—Such section is further
- 8 amended—
- 9 (1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as
- subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and
- 11 (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
- lowing new subsection (c):
- 13 "(c) Assignment of Civilian Employees to Su-
- 14 PERVISE LESS EXPERIENCED JUDGE ADVOCATES IN
- 15 Prosecution and Defense.—
- 16 "(1) Assignment Authorized.—The Sec-
- 17 retary concerned may assign the function of super-
- vising and overseeing prosecution or defense in
- 19 courts-martial by less experienced judge advocates to
- civilian employees of the military department con-
- cerned or the Department of Homeland Security, as
- applicable, who have extensive litigation expertise.
- "(2) Status as supervisor.—A civilian em-
- ployee assigned to supervise and oversee the pros-
- ecution or defense in a court-martial pursuant to

1	this subsection is not required to be detailed to the
2	case, but must be reasonably available for consulta
3	tion during court-martial proceedings.".
4	(c) Pilot Programs on Professional Develop
5	MENTAL PROCESS FOR JUDGE ADVOCATES.—Subsection
6	(d) of such section, as redesignated by subsection (b)(1
7	of this section, is amended—
8	(1) in paragraph (1), striking "establishing"
9	and all that follows and inserting "a military justice
10	career track for judge advocates under the jurisdic
11	tion of the Secretary.";
12	(2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para
13	graph (5); and
14	(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol
15	lowing new paragraph (4):
16	"(4) Elements.—Each pilot program shall in
17	clude the following:
18	"(A) A military justice career track for
19	judge advocates that leads to judge advocates
20	with military justice expertise in the grade o
21	colonel, or in the grade of captain in the case
22	of judge advocates of the Navy, to prosecute
23	and defend complex cases in military courts
24	martial.

1	["(B) The use of the suspension of limitation
2	tions on the number of certain commissioned
3	officers on active duty under section 523(a) or
4	title 10, United States Code, by reason of para-
5	graph (4) of that section (as added by section
6	503 of this Act), to increase the number of au
7	thorized commissioned officers in pay grades
8	O-4 through O-6 in order to accommodate the
9	increased numbers of judge advocates in such
10	grades required in connection with the pilot
11	program. PL114-328 did not amend 10 USC
12	523 to authorize suspension of the limitations]
13	"(C) The use of skill identifiers to identify
14	judge advocates for participation in the pilot
15	program from among judge advocates having
16	appropriate skill and experience in military jus-
17	tice matters.
18	"(D) Guidance for promotion boards con-
19	sidering the selection for promotion of officers
20	participating in the pilot program in order to
21	ensure that judge advocates who are partici-
22	pating in the pilot program have the same op-
23	portunity for promotion as all other judge advo-
24	cate officers being considered for promotion by
25	such boards.

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1 "(E) Such other matters as the Secretary

2 concerned considers appropriate.".