

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 656

AN ACT

To amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the rules for approval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of commercial driver education programs for purposes of veterans educational assistance, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Veteran Improvement
3 Commercial Driver License Act of 2023”.

4 **SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF RULES FOR APPROVAL OF COM-**
5 **MERCIAL DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAMS**
6 **FOR PURPOSES OF VETERANS EDUCATIONAL**
7 **ASSISTANCE.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3680A(e) of title 38,
9 United States Code, is amended—

10 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through
11 (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively;

12 (2) in the matter before subparagraph (A), as
13 redesignated by paragraph (1), by inserting “(1)”
14 before “The Secretary”;

15 (3) in paragraph (1)(B), as redesignated by
16 paragraph (1), by inserting “except as provided in
17 paragraph (2),” before “the course”; and

18 (4) by adding at the end the following new
19 paragraph (2):

20 “(2)(A) Subject to this paragraph, a commercial driv-
21 er education program is exempt from paragraph (1)(B)
22 for a branch of an educational institution if the commer-
23 cial driver education program offered at the branch by the
24 educational institution—

25 “(i) is appropriately licensed; and

1 “(ii) uses the same curriculum as a commercial
2 driver education program offered by the educational
3 institution at another location that is approved for
4 purposes of this chapter by a State approving agen-
5 cy or the Secretary when acting in the role of a
6 State approving agency.

7 “(B)(i) In order for a commercial driver education
8 program of an educational institution offered at a branch
9 described in paragraph (1)(B) to be exempt under sub-
10 paragraph (A) of this paragraph, the educational institu-
11 tion shall submit to the Secretary each year that para-
12 graph (1)(B) would otherwise apply a report that dem-
13 onstrates that the curriculum at the new branch is the
14 same as the curriculum at the primary location.

15 “(ii) Reporting under clause (i) shall be submitted
16 in accordance with such requirements as the Secretary
17 shall establish in consultation with the State approving
18 agencies.

19 “(C)(i) The Secretary may withhold an exemption
20 under subparagraph (A) for any educational institution or
21 branch of an educational institution as the Secretary con-
22 siders appropriate.

23 “(ii) In making any determination under clause (i),
24 the Secretary may consult with the Secretary of Transpor-
25 tation on the performance of a provider of a commercial

1 driver program, including the status of the provider within
2 the Training Provider Registry of the Federal Motor Car-
3 rier Safety Administration when appropriate.”.

4 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—

5 (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF REQUIREMENTS.—Not
6 later than 180 days after the date of the enactment
7 of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
8 establish requirements under section
9 3680A(e)(2)(B)(ii) of such title, as added by sub-
10 section (a).

11 (2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made
12 by subsection (a) shall apply to commercial driver
13 education programs on and after the date that is
14 180 days after the date on which the Secretary es-
15 tablishes the requirements under paragraph (1) of
16 this subsection.

Passed the Senate November 2, 2023.

Attest:

Secretary.

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