

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 656

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 6, 2023

Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. PADILLA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

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

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

7 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through
8 (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively;

9 (2) in the matter before subparagraph (A), as
10 redesignated by paragraph (1), by inserting “(1)”
11 before “The Secretary”;

12 (3) in paragraph (1)(B), as redesignated by
13 paragraph (1), by inserting “except as provided in
14 paragraph (2),” before “the course”; and

15 (4) by adding at the end the following new
16 paragraph (2):

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

22 “(i) is appropriately licensed; and

23 “(ii) uses the same curriculum as a commercial
24 driver education program offered by the educational
25 institution at another location that is approved for
26 purposes of this chapter by a State approving agen-

1 cy or the Secretary when acting in the role of a
2 State approving agency.

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

11 “(ii) Reporting under clause (i) shall be submitted
12 in accordance with such requirements as the Secretary
13 shall establish in consultation with the State approving
14 agencies.

15 “(C)(i) The Secretary may withhold an exemption
16 under subparagraph (A) for any educational institution or
17 branch of an educational institution as the Secretary con-
18 siders appropriate.

19 “(ii) In making any determination under clause (i),
20 the Secretary may consult with the Secretary of Transpor-
21 tation on the performance of a provider of a commercial
22 driver program, including the status of the provider within
23 the Training Provider Registry of the Federal Motor Car-
24 rier Safety Administration when appropriate.”.

25 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—

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

7 (2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made
8 by subsection (a) shall apply to commercial driver
9 education programs on and after the date that is
10 180 days after the date on which the Secretary es-
11 tablishes the requirements under paragraph (1) of
12 this subsection.

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