

***In the Senate of the United States,***

*March 26 (legislative day, March 25), 2020.*

*Resolved*, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 3504) entitled “An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for improvements to the specially adapted housing program and educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.”, do pass with the following

**AMENDMENT:**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 ***SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.***

2       *This Act may be cited as the “Ryan Kules and Paul*  
3 *Benne Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of*  
4 *2019”.*

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
 2 **TO ASSIST BLIND VETERANS WHO HAVE NOT**  
 3 **LOST USE OF A LEG IN ACQUIRING SPE-**  
 4 **CIALY ADAPTED HOUSING.**

5 *Section 2101 of title 38, United States Code, is amend-*  
 6 *ed—*

7 *(1) in subsection (a)(2)—*

8 *(A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking*  
 9 *“permanent and total”; and*

10 *(B) in subparagraph (B),*

11 *(i) in clauses (i), (iii), (iv), and (v), by*  
 12 *inserting “permanent and total” before*  
 13 *“disability”; and*

14 *(ii) in clause (ii)—*

15 *(I) by inserting “permanent” be-*  
 16 *fore “disability”;*

17 *(II) by striking “due to—” and*  
 18 *inserting “due to blindness in both*  
 19 *eyes, having central visual acuity of*  
 20 *20/200 or less in the better eye with the*  
 21 *use of a standard correcting lens. For*  
 22 *the purposes of this clause, an eye with*  
 23 *a limitation in the fields of vision such*  
 24 *that the widest diameter of the visual*  
 25 *field subtends an angle no greater than*  
 26 *20 degrees shall be considered as hav-*

1                    *ing a central visual acuity of 20/200*  
 2                    *or less.”; and*  
 3                    *(III) by striking subclauses (I)*  
 4                    *and (II); and*  
 5                    *(2) in subsection (b)(2)—*  
 6                    *(A) by striking subparagraph (A); and*  
 7                    *(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (B)*  
 8                    *and (C) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respec-*  
 9                    *tively.*

10 **SEC. 3. INCREASE IN AMOUNTS OF SPECIALLY ADAPTED**  
 11 **HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY DE-**  
 12 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

13                    *(a) INCREASE OF NUMBER OF GRANTS PER VET-*  
 14 *ERAN.—Section 2102(d)(3) of such title is amended—*

15                    *(1) by striking “No veteran” and inserting*  
 16                    *“Subject to subsection (f), no veteran”; and*  
 17                    *(2) by striking “three” and inserting “six”.*

18                    *(b) INCREASE IN NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS AUTHOR-*  
 19 *IZED TO BE APPROVED.—Section 2101(a)(4) of such title*  
 20 *is amended by striking “30 applications” and inserting*  
 21 *“120 applications”.*

22                    *(c) INCREASE IN MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE*  
 23 *FOR ADAPTATION TO VETERAN’S RESIDENCE.—Section*  
 24 *2102(b)(2) of such title is amended by striking “\$12,000”*  
 25 *and inserting “\$19,733”.*

1       (d) *INCREASE IN AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE*  
 2 *FOR ACQUISITION OF HOUSING WITH SPECIAL FEA-*  
 3 *TURES.*—Section 2102(d)(1) of such title is amended by  
 4 striking “\$63,780” and inserting “\$98,492”.

5       (e) *INCREASE IN AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE*  
 6 *FOR ADAPTATIONS TO VETERANS’ RESIDENCES.*—Section  
 7 2102(d)(2) of such title is amended by striking “\$12,756”  
 8 and inserting “\$19,733”.

9       (f) *EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICATION.*—The amend-  
 10 ments made by this section shall take effect on October 1,  
 11 2020.

12 **SEC. 4. PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS OF SPE-**  
 13 **CIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR**  
 14 **CERTAIN VETERANS.**

15       Section 2102 of such title, as amended by section 3,  
 16 is further amended by adding at the end the following new  
 17 subsection:

18       “(f)(1) *Beginning October 1, 2030, notwithstanding*  
 19 *the aggregate amounts specified in subsection (d), a covered*  
 20 *veteran may apply for and receive an additional amount*  
 21 *of assistance under subsection (a) or (b) of section 2101 of*  
 22 *this title in an amount that does not exceed half of the*  
 23 *amount specified in subsection (d).*

24       “(2) *In this subsection, a covered veteran is a veteran*  
 25 *who—*

1           “(A) is described in subsection (a)(2) or (b)(2) of  
2       section 2101 of this title;

3           “(B) as of the date of the veteran’s application  
4       for assistance under paragraph (1), most recently re-  
5       ceived assistance under this chapter more than 10  
6       years before such date; and

7           “(C) lives in a home that the Secretary deter-  
8       mines does not have adaptations that are reasonably  
9       necessary because of the veteran’s disability.”.

10 **SEC. 5. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PREPARATORY COURSES**

11                   **AS PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION FOR PUR-**  
12                   **POSES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**  
13                   **FAIRS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PRO-**  
14                   **GRAMS.**

15       (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Chapter 33 of title 38, United  
16 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3315A  
17 the following new section:

18       **“§ 3315B. Preparatory courses for licensure, certifi-**  
19                   **cation, or national tests**

20           “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—An individual entitled to edu-  
21 cational assistance under this chapter shall also be entitled  
22 to payment for a covered preparatory course.

23           “(b) *AMOUNT.*—The amount of educational assistance  
24 payable under this chapter for a covered preparatory course  
25 is the lesser of—

1           “(1) the fee charged for the covered preparatory  
2       course; or

3           “(2) the amount of entitlement available to the  
4       individual under this chapter at the time of payment  
5       for the covered preparatory course under this section.

6       “(c) *CHARGE AGAINST ENTITLEMENT.*—The number  
7       of months of entitlement charged an individual under this  
8       chapter for a covered preparatory course shall be pro-rated  
9       based on the actual amount of the fee charged for the covered  
10      preparatory course relative to the rate for 1 month pay-  
11      able—

12           “(1) for the academic year beginning on August  
13      1, 2020, \$2,042; or

14           “(2) for an academic year beginning on any sub-  
15      sequent August 1, the amount for the previous aca-  
16      demic year beginning on August 1 under this sub-  
17      section, as increased by the percentage increase equal  
18      to the most recent percentage increase determined  
19      under section 3015(h).

20       “(d) *COVERED PREPARATORY COURSE DEFINED.*—In  
21      this section, the term ‘covered preparatory course’ means  
22      a course—

23           “(1) for a licensing or certification test that is  
24      required or used to enter into, maintain, or advance

1       *in employment in a predetermined and identified vo-*  
 2       *cation or profession; and*

3               “(2) *that has been approved by the State approv-*  
 4       *ing agency concerned.*”.

5       (b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—*The table of sections at*  
 6       *the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after*  
 7       *the item relating to section 3315A the following new item:*

      “3315B. *Preparatory courses for licensure, certification, or national tests.*”.

8       (c) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.*—*Section 3532(g) of*  
 9       *title 38, United States Code, is amended—*

10               (1) *in paragraph (1), by inserting “or a covered*  
 11       *preparatory course (as that term is defined in section*  
 12       *3315B(a) of this title)” after “or national test pro-*  
 13       *viding an opportunity for course credit at institu-*  
 14       *tions of higher learning described in section*  
 15       *3501(a)(5) of this title”; and*

16               (2) *in paragraphs (2) and (3), by inserting “or*  
 17       *covered preparatory course” after “test” each place it*  
 18       *appears.*

19       (d) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—*The amendment made by sub-*  
 20       *section (a) shall take effect on August 1, 2021.*

21       **SEC. 6. IMPROVEMENT TO WORK-STUDY ALLOWANCE PRO-**  
 22       **GRAM.**

23       (a) *PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCE.*—*Subsection (a) of sec-*  
 24       *tion 3485 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—*

1           (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “Individuals”  
 2           and inserting “In accordance with paragraph (4), in-  
 3           dividuals”;

4           (2) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), and (6)  
 5           as paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively; and

6           (3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-  
 7           lowing new paragraph:

8           “(4)(A) With respect to covered work-study activities,  
 9           the Secretary shall carry out this section by providing to  
 10          participating educational institutions an annual amount  
 11          for the institution to use in paying work-study allowance  
 12          under paragraph (1) to individuals enrolled at the institu-  
 13          tion.

14          “(B) With respect to a participating educational insti-  
 15          tution that participated in the work-study program under  
 16          this section during the academic year beginning August 1,  
 17          2018, the Secretary shall determine the annual amount to  
 18          provide to the educational institution under subparagraph  
 19          (A) as follows:

20               “(i) For the academic year beginning August 1,  
 21               2020, the amount shall be the total amount, deter-  
 22               mined in consultation with the educational institu-  
 23               tion, that the Secretary paid under this section for  
 24               covered work-study activities to individuals enrolled



1       *at such educational institution during the academic*  
2       *year beginning August 1, 2018.*

3               “(ii) *Except as provided by clauses (ii) or (iii)*  
4       *of subparagraph (D), for each academic year begin-*  
5       *ning on or after August 1, 2021, the amount shall be*  
6       *the total amount the educational institution paid*  
7       *under this section for work-study allowance for cov-*  
8       *ered work-study activities to individuals enrolled at*  
9       *such educational institution during the previous aca-*  
10       *ademic year in which individuals participated in the*  
11       *work-study program.*

12              “(C) *With respect to a participating educational insti-*  
13       *tution that did not participate in the work-study program*  
14       *under this section during the academic year beginning Au-*  
15       *gust 1, 2018, the Secretary shall determine the annual*  
16       *amount to provide to the educational institution under sub-*  
17       *paragraph (A) as follows:*

18              “(i) *For the first academic year in which the*  
19       *educational institution participates in the work-study*  
20       *program beginning on or after August 1, 2020, the*  
21       *amount shall be an amount, determined in consulta-*  
22       *tion with the educational institution, that the Sec-*  
23       *retary determines appropriate based on amounts pro-*  
24       *vided to similar educational institutions pursuant to*  
25       *subparagraph (B).*

1           “(ii) *Except as provided by clauses (ii) or (iii)*  
2       *of subparagraph (D), for each academic year occur-*  
3       *ring after the academic year specified in clause (i),*  
4       *the amount shall be the total amount the educational*  
5       *institution paid under this section for work-study al-*  
6       *lowance for covered work-study activities to individ-*  
7       *uals enrolled at such educational institution during*  
8       *the previous academic year in which individuals en-*  
9       *rolled at such educational institution participated in*  
10      *the work-study program.*

11       “(D)(i) *Except as provided in clause (ii), if the Sec-*  
12      *retary provides an annual amount to a participating edu-*  
13      *cational institution under subparagraph (B) or (C) that is*  
14      *more than the total amount the educational institution*  
15      *pays to individuals under paragraph (1) for covered work-*  
16      *study activities, the educational institution shall return to*  
17      *the Secretary the unpaid amount and the Secretary shall*  
18      *transfer such amount into the general fund of the Treasury.*

19       “(ii) *If the annual amount provided to a participating*  
20      *educational institution under subparagraph (B) or (C) is*  
21      *more, but less than 25 percent more, than the total amount*  
22      *the educational institution pays to individuals under para-*  
23      *graph (1) for covered work-study activities, and the edu-*  
24      *cational institution plans to participate in the work-study*  
25      *program under this section during the subsequent academic*

1 year, the educational institution may retain the amount  
2 of the overpayment if the educational institution notifies  
3 the Secretary of the amount of the overpayment and the  
4 intention of the educational institution to retain such  
5 amount. Any amount retained by an educational institu-  
6 tion under this clause may only be used by the educational  
7 institution to provide work-study allowance to individuals  
8 enrolled at the educational institution.

9 “(iii) At any time a participating educational institu-  
10 tion may request the Secretary to increase the annual  
11 amount that the Secretary provides the educational institu-  
12 tion under subparagraph (B) or (C). The Secretary shall  
13 approve or disapprove such request by not later than 30  
14 days after the date of the request.

15 “(iv) Whenever the Secretary finds that a partici-  
16 pating educational institution paid an amount of work-  
17 study allowance under this paragraph to an individual for  
18 a purpose other than covered work-study activities, such  
19 payment shall constitute a liability of the educational insti-  
20 tution to the United States.

21 “(E)(i) Pursuant to section 3690(c), section 3693, and  
22 other provisions of chapter 36 of this title, the Secretary  
23 shall ensure that participating educational institutions  
24 carry out the work-study allowance program in compliance  
25 with this section.

1       “(ii) *The Secretary may prohibit an educational insti-*  
 2 *tution from being a participating educational institution*  
 3 *under this paragraph if the Secretary determines that the*  
 4 *educational institution is not in compliance with this sec-*  
 5 *tion.*

6       “(F) *In this paragraph:*

7               “(i) *The term ‘covered work-study activities’*  
 8 *means qualifying work-study activities described in*  
 9 *subparagraphs (A), (B), (H), (I), or (J) of paragraph*  
 10 *(5) for which an individual is paid a work-study al-*  
 11 *lowance.*

12              “(ii) *The term ‘participating educational insti-*  
 13 *tution’ means an educational institution that—*

14                      “(I)(aa) *during the five-academic-year pe-*  
 15 *riod occurring before an academic year during*  
 16 *which the Secretary carries out this paragraph,*  
 17 *the educational institution had on average more*  
 18 *than 10 individuals per academic year partici-*  
 19 *pating in a covered work-study activity under*  
 20 *this section; or*

21                      “(bb) *the educational institution is not de-*  
 22 *scribed by item (aa) but informs the Secretary*  
 23 *that the institution expects to have more than 10*  
 24 *individuals in the following academic year par-*

1            *ticipating in a covered work-study activity*  
 2            *under this section; and*

3            *“(II) voluntarily chooses to be a partici-*  
 4            *pating educational institution under this para-*  
 5            *graph.”.*

6            *(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (e)(1) of*  
 7            *such section is amended by striking “subsection (a)(4)” and*  
 8            *inserting “subsection (a)(5)”.*

9            *(c) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by this sec-*  
 10           *tion shall apply with respect to a quarter, semester, or term,*  
 11           *as applicable, commencing on or after August 1, 2021.*

12    **SEC. 7. ADJUSTMENT OF LOAN FEES.**

13           *Section 3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is*  
 14           *amended by striking the loan fee table and inserting the*  
 15           *following:*

<i>“Type of loan</i>	<i>Active duty veteran</i>	<i>Reservist</i>	<i>Other obligor</i>
<i>(A)(i) Initial loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other initial loan described in section 3710(a) other than with 5-down or 10-down (closed on or after October 1, 2004, and before January 1, 2020)</i>	<i>2.15</i>	<i>2.40</i>	<i>NA</i>
<i>(A)(ii) Initial loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other initial loan described in section 3710(a) other than with 5-down or 10-down (closed on or after January 1, 2020, and before April 7, 2023)</i>	<i>2.30</i>	<i>2.30</i>	<i>NA</i>
<i>(A)(iii) Initial loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other initial loan described in section 3710(a) other than with 5-down or 10-down (closed on or after April 7, 2023, and before October 1, 2029)</i>	<i>2.15</i>	<i>2.15</i>	<i>NA</i>
<i>(A)(iv) Initial loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other initial loan described in section 3710(a) other than with 5-down or 10-down (closed on or after October 1, 2029)</i>	<i>1.40</i>	<i>1.40</i>	<i>NA</i>

<i>“Type of loan</i>	<i>Active duty veteran</i>	<i>Reservist</i>	<i>Other obligor</i>
(B)(i) Subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) (closed on or after October 1, 2004, and before January 1, 2020)	3.30	3.30	NA
(B)(ii) Subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) (closed on or after January 1, 2020, and before April 7, 2023)	3.60	3.60	NA
(B)(iii) Subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) (closed on or after April 7, 2023, and before October 1, 2029)	3.30	3.30	NA
(B)(iv) Subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) (closed on or after October 1, 2029)	1.25	1.25	NA
(C)(i) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 5-down (closed before January 1, 2020)	1.50	1.75	NA
(C)(ii) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 5-down (closed on or after January 1, 2020, and before April 7, 2023)	1.65	1.65	NA
(C)(iii) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 5-down (closed on or after April 7, 2023, and before October 1, 2029)	1.50	1.50	NA
(C)(iv) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 5-down (closed on or after October 1, 2029)	0.75	0.75	NA
(D)(i) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 10-down (closed before January 1, 2020)	1.25	1.50	NA
(D)(ii) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 10-down (closed on or after January 1, 2020, and before April 7, 2023)	1.40	1.40	NA
(D)(iii) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 10-down (closed on or after April 7, 2023, and before October 1, 2029)	1.25	1.25	NA
(D)(iv) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 10-down (closed on or after October 1, 2029)	0.50	0.50	NA
(E) Interest rate reduction refinancing loan	0.50	0.50	NA
(F) Direct loan under section 3711	1.00	1.00	NA
(G) Manufactured home loan under section 3712 (other than an interest rate reduction refinancing loan)	1.00	1.00	NA
(H) Loan to Native American veteran under section 3762 (other than an interest rate reduction refinancing loan)	1.25	1.25	NA
(I) Loan assumption under section 3714	0.50	0.50	0.50
(J) Loan under section 3733(a)	2.25	2.25	2.25”.

1 **SEC. 8. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

2       *The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of*  
3 *complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,*  
4 *shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled*  
5 *“Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act,*  
6 *submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the*  
7 *Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that*  
8 *such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on pas-*  
9 *sage.*

Attest:

*Secretary.*

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H.R. 3504**

---

**AMENDMENT**