

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6322

AN ACT

To make certain improvements in the educational assistance benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in the case of changes to courses of education by reason of emergency situations, 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 “Student Veteran
3 Coronavirus Response Act of 2020”.

4 **SEC. 2. COVERED PERIOD DEFINED.**

5 For purposes of this Act, the term “covered period”
6 means the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending
7 on December 21, 2020.

8 **SEC. 3. PAYMENT OF WORK-STUDY ALLOWANCES DURING**
9 **EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.**

10 During the covered period, the Secretary of Veterans
11 Affairs shall apply section 3485 of title 38, United States
12 Code, as if it were amended by adding at the end the fol-
13 lowing new subsection:

14 “(f)(1) In case of an individual who is in receipt of
15 work-study allowance pursuant to an agreement described
16 in subsection (a)(3) as of the date on which an emergency
17 situation occurs and who is unable to continue to perform
18 qualifying work-study activities described in subsection
19 (a)(4) by reason of the emergency situation—

20 “(A) the Secretary may continue to pay work-
21 study allowance under this section or make deduc-
22 tions described in subsection (e)(1) during the pe-
23 riod of such emergency situation, notwithstanding
24 the inability of the individual to perform such work-
25 study activities by reason of such emergency situa-
26 tion; and

1 “(B) at the option of the individual, the Sec-
2 retary shall extend the agreement described in sub-
3 section (a)(3) with the individual for any subsequent
4 period of enrollment initiated during the emergency
5 situation, notwithstanding the inability of the indi-
6 vidual to perform work-study activities described in
7 subsection (a)(4) by reason of such emergency situa-
8 tion.

9 “(2) The amount of work-study allowance payable to
10 an individual under paragraph (1)(A) during the period
11 of an emergency situation shall be an amount determined
12 by the Secretary but may not exceed the amount that
13 would be payable under subsection (a)(2) if the individual
14 worked 25 hours per week paid during such period.”.

15 **SEC. 4. PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES TO VETERANS EN-**
16 **ROLLED IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**
17 **CLOSED FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—During the covered period, the
19 Secretary may pay allowances to an eligible veteran or eli-
20 gible person under section 3680(a)(2)(A) of title 38,
21 United States Code, if the veteran or person is enrolled
22 in a program or course of education that—

23 (1) is provided by an educational institution
24 that is closed by reason of an emergency situation;
25 or

1 (2) is suspended by reason of an emergency sit-
2 uation.

3 (b) AMOUNT OF ALLOWANCE.—The total number of
4 weeks for which allowances may be paid under this section
5 may not exceed four weeks.

6 (c) NOT COUNTED FOR PURPOSES OF LIMITA-
7 TION.—Any amount paid under this section shall not be
8 counted for purposes of the limitation on allowance under
9 section 3680(a)(2)(A) of title 38, United States Code.

10 **SEC. 5. PROHIBITION OF CHARGE TO ENTITLEMENT OF**
11 **STUDENTS UNABLE TO PURSUE A PROGRAM**
12 **OF EDUCATION DUE TO AN EMERGENCY SIT-**
13 **UATION.**

14 During the covered period, the Secretary of Veterans
15 Affairs shall apply section 3699(b)(1) of title 38, United
16 States Code, as if it were amended—

17 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or” at
18 the end;

19 (2) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking “and”
20 at the end and inserting “or” ; and

21 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
22 paragraph:

23 “(C) the temporary closure of an edu-
24 cational institution or the temporary closure or

1 termination of a course or program of education
2 by reason of an emergency situation; and”.

3 **SEC. 6. EXTENSION OF TIME LIMITATIONS FOR USE OF EN-**
4 **TITLEMENT.**

5 (a) MONTGOMERY GI BILL.—During the covered pe-
6 riod, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall apply section
7 3031 of title 38, United States Code, as if it were amend-
8 ed by adding at the end the following new subsection:

9 “(i) In the case of an individual eligible for edu-
10 cational assistance under this chapter who is prevented
11 from pursuing the individual’s chosen program of edu-
12 cation before the expiration of the 10-year period for the
13 use of entitlement under this chapter otherwise applicable
14 under this section because the educational institution
15 closed (temporarily or permanently) under an established
16 policy based on an Executive order of the President or
17 due to an emergency situation, such 10-year period—

18 “(1) shall not run during the period the indi-
19 vidual is so prevented from pursuing such program;
20 and

21 “(2) shall again begin running on the first day
22 after the individual is able to resume pursuit of a
23 program of education with educational assistance
24 under this chapter.”.

25 (b) POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—During the covered period,
2 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall apply section
3 3321(b)(1) of such title as if it were amended—

4 (A) by inserting “(A)” before “Sub-
5 sections”;

6 (B) by striking “and (d)” and inserting
7 “(d), and (i)”; and by adding at the end the fol-
8 lowing new subparagraph:

9 “(B) Subsection (i) of section 3031 (as de-
10 scribed in section 6 of the Student Veteran
11 Coronavirus Response Act of 2020) shall apply with
12 respect to the running of the 15-year period de-
13 scribed in paragraphs (4)(A) and (5)(A) of this sub-
14 section in the same manner as such subsection ap-
15 plies under section 3031 with respect to the running
16 of the 10-year period described in section 3031(a).”.

17 (2) TRANSFER PERIOD.—During the covered
18 period, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall apply
19 section 3319(h)(5) of such title as if it were amend-
20 ed—

21 (A) in subparagraph (A) by inserting “or
22 (C)” after “subparagraph (B)”; and

23 (B) by adding at the end the following new
24 subparagraph:

“(C) EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.—In any case in which the Secretary determines that an individual to whom entitlement is transferred under this section has been prevented from pursuing the individual’s chosen program of education before the individual attains the age of 26 years because the educational institution closed (temporarily or permanently) under an established policy based on an Executive order of the President or due to an emergency situation, the Secretary shall extend the period during which the individual may use such entitlement for a period equal to the number of months that the individual was so prevented from pursuing the program of education, as determined by the Secretary.”.

(c) VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND TRAINING.—

(1) PERIOD FOR USE.—During the covered period, the Secretary of Veterans affairs shall apply section 3103 of such title as if it were amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “or (e)” and inserting “(e), or (g)”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

1 “(g) In any case in which the Secretary determines
2 that a veteran has been prevented from participating in
3 a vocational rehabilitation program under this chapter
4 within the twelve-year period of eligibility prescribed in
5 subsection (a) by reason of an Executive order of the
6 President or due to an emergency situation, such twelve-
7 year period—

8 “(1) shall not run during the period the indi-
9 vidual is so prevented from participating such pro-
10 gram; and

11 “(2) shall again begin running on the first day
12 after the individual is able to resume participation in
13 such program.”.

14 (2) DURATION OF PROGRAM.—During the cov-
15 ered period, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
16 apply section 3105(b) of such title as if it were
17 amended—

18 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “para-
19 graph (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (2) and
20 (3)”; and

21 (B) by adding at the end the following new
22 paragraph:

23 “(3)(A) In any case in which the Secretary deter-
24 mines that a veteran has been prevented from partici-
25 pating in counseling and placement and postplacement

1 services described in section 3104(a)(2) and (5) of this
2 title by reason of an Executive order of the President or
3 due to an emergency situation, the Secretary shall extend
4 the period during which the Secretary may provide such
5 counseling and placement and postplacement services for
6 the veteran for a period equal to the number of months
7 that the veteran was so prevented from participating in
8 such counseling and services, as determined by the Sec-
9 retary.

10 “(B) In any case in which the Secretary determines
11 that a veteran has been prevented from participating in
12 a vocational rehabilitation program under this chapter by
13 reason of an Executive order of the President or due to
14 an emergency situation, the Secretary shall extend the pe-
15 riod of the veteran’s vocational rehabilitation program for
16 a period equal to the number of months that the veteran
17 was so prevented from participating in the vocational re-
18 habilitation program, as determined by the Secretary.”.

19 (d) EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR MEMBERS OF
20 THE SELECTED RESERVE.—During the covered period,
21 the Secretary concerned shall apply section 16133(b) of
22 title 10, United States Code, as if it were amended by
23 adding at the end the following new paragraph:

24 “(5) In any case in which the Secretary concerned
25 determines that a person entitled to educational assistance

1 under this chapter has been prevented from using such
2 person's entitlement by reason of an Executive order of
3 the President or due to an emergency situation, the Sec-
4 retary concerned shall extend the period of entitlement
5 prescribed in subsection (a) for a period equal to the num-
6 ber of months that the person was so prevented from using
7 such entitlement, as determined by the Secretary.”.

8 **SEC. 7. RESTORATION OF ENTITLEMENT TO REHABILITA-**
9 **TION PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS AFFECTED**
10 **BY SCHOOL CLOSURE OR DISAPPROVAL.**

11 (a) ENTITLEMENT.—During the covered period, the
12 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall apply section 3699 of
13 title 38, United States Code, as if it were amended by
14 striking “chapter 30,” each time it appears and inserting
15 “chapter 30, 31,”.

16 (b) PAYMENT OF SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES.—
17 During the covered period, the Secretary of Veterans Af-
18 fairs shall apply section 3680(a)(2)(B) of title 38, United
19 States Code, as if it were amended—

20 (1) by inserting “or a subsistence allowance de-
21 scribed in section 3108” before “, during”; and

22 (2) by inserting “or allowance” after “such a
23 stipend”.

1 **SEC. 8. EXTENSION OF PAYMENT OF VOCATIONAL REHA-**
2 **BILITATION SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES.**

3 In the case of any veteran whom the Secretary of Vet-
4 erans Affairs determines is satisfactorily following a pro-
5 gram of employment services provided under section
6 3104(a)(5) of title 38, United States Code, during the cov-
7 ered period, the Secretary may pay the veteran a subsist-
8 ence allowance, as prescribed in section 3108 of such title
9 for full-time training for the type of program that the vet-
10 eran was pursuing, for two additional months.

11 **SEC. 9. EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—This Act is designated as an
13 emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the
14 Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

15 (b) DESIGNATION IN SENATE.—In the Senate, this
16 Act is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant
17 to section 4112(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress),

1 the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year
2 2018.

Passed the House of Representatives March 31,
2020.

Attest:

Clerk.

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