

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3218

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 13, 2017

Mr. ROE of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. WALZ, Mr. MCCARTHY, Mr. MESSER, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. BANKS of Indiana, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. COOK, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. BOST, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. DUNN, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. O'ROURKE, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CORREA, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. PANNETTA, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. TITUS, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. RICHMOND, and Mr. COURTNEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
 5 “Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act
 6 of 2017”.

7 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
 8 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Sec. 101. Consideration of certain time spent receiving medical care from Secretary of Defense as active duty for purposes of eligibility for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance.

Sec. 102. Consolidation of certain eligibility tiers under Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 103. Educational assistance under Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program for members of the Armed Forces awarded the Purple Heart.

Sec. 104. Eligibility for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance for certain members of reserve components of Armed Forces who lost entitlement to educational assistance under Reserve Educational Assistance Program.

Sec. 105. Calculation of monthly housing stipend under Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program based on location of campus where classes are attended.

Sec. 106. Charge to entitlement for certain licensure and certification tests and national tests under Department of Veterans Affairs Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program.

Sec. 107. Restoration of entitlement to educational assistance and other relief for veterans affected by school closure or disapproval.

Sec. 108. Inclusion of Fry Scholarship recipients in Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program.

Sec. 109. Additional authorized transfer of unused Post-9/11 Educational Assistance benefits to dependents upon death of originally designated dependent.

Sec. 110. Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship.

Sec. 111. Honoring the national service of members of the Armed Forces by elimination of time limitation for use of entitlement.

Sec. 112. Monthly stipend for certain members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces receiving Post-9/11 Educational Assistance.

Sec. 113. Improvement of information technology of the veterans benefits administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 114. Department of Veterans Affairs high technology pilot program.

TITLE II—OTHER EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

- Sec. 201. Work-study allowance.
- Sec. 202. Duration of educational assistance under Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program.
- Sec. 203. Olin E. Teague increase in amounts of educational assistance payable under Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program.

TITLE III—ADMINISTRATION OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

- Sec. 301. State approving agency funding.
- Sec. 302. Authorization for use of Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to pursue independent study programs at certain educational institutions that are not institutions of higher learning.
- Sec. 303. Provision of information on priority enrollment for veterans in certain courses of education.
- Sec. 304. Limitation on use of reporting fees payable to educational institutions and sponsors of programs of apprenticeship.
- Sec. 305. Training for school certifying officials.
- Sec. 306. Extension of authority for Advisory Committee on Education.
- Sec. 307. Department of Veterans Affairs provision of on-campus educational and vocational counseling for veterans.
- Sec. 308. Provision of information regarding veteran entitlement to educational assistance.
- Sec. 309. Treatment, for purposes of educational assistance administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, of educational courses that begin seven or fewer days after the first day of an academic term.

TITLE IV—RESERVE COMPONENT BENEFITS

- Sec. 401. Eligibility of reserve component members for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance.
- Sec. 402. Time limitation for training and rehabilitation for veterans with service-connected disabilities.

TITLE V—OTHER MATTERS

- Sec. 501. Repeal inapplicability of modification of basic allowance for housing to benefits under laws administered by Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

1 **TITLE I—POST-9/11 EDU-**
2 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE PRO-**
3 **GRAM**

4 **SEC. 101. CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN TIME SPENT RE-**
5 **CEIVING MEDICAL CARE FROM SECRETARY**
6 **OF DEFENSE AS ACTIVE DUTY FOR PUR-**
7 **POSES OF ELIGIBILITY FOR POST-9/11 EDU-**
8 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3301(1)(B) of title 38,
10 United States Code, is amended by inserting “12301(h),”
11 after “12301(g),”.

12 (b) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.—The amendment
13 made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to service
14 in the Armed Forces occurring on or after September 11,
15 2001.

16 (c) APPLICATION WITH RESPECT TO USE OF ENTI-
17 TLEMENT.—An individual who is entitled to educational
18 assistance by reason of the amendment made by sub-
19 section (a) may use such entitlement to pursue a course
20 of education beginning on or after August 1, 2018.

1 **SEC. 102. CONSOLIDATION OF CERTAIN ELIGIBILITY TIERS**
2 **UNDER POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**
3 **PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
4 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

5 (a) ENTITLEMENT.—Section 3311(b) of title 38,
6 United States Code, is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (6)(A), by striking “12
8 months” and inserting “6 months”;

9 (2) by striking paragraph (7); and

10 (3) by redesignating paragraphs (8) and (9) as
11 paragraphs (7) and (8), respectively.

12 (b) AMOUNT OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Sec-
13 tion 3313(c) of such title is amended by striking para-
14 graph (7).

15 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Sections 3311,
16 3313, 3316, 3322, and 3679 of such title are further
17 amended—

18 (1) in section 3311(f), by striking “paragraph
19 (9)” each place it appears and inserting “paragraph
20 (8)”;

21 (2) in section 3313—

22 (A) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “(9)”
23 and inserting “(8)”;

24 (B) in subsection (d), by striking “para-
25 graphs (2) through (7)” each place it appears
26 and inserting “paragraphs (2) through (6)”;

1 (C) in subsection (e)(2)(C)—

2 (i) by striking “paragraphs (3)
3 through (8)” and inserting “paragraphs
4 (3) through (7)”; and

5 (ii) by striking “paragraphs (2)
6 through (7)” and inserting “paragraphs
7 (2) through (6)”; and

8 (D) in subsection (f)(2)(A)(ii), by striking
9 “paragraphs (2) through (7)” and inserting
10 “paragraphs (2) through (6)”; and

11 (E) in subsection (g)(3)—

12 (i) in subparagraph (A)(iv)—

13 (I) by striking “paragraphs (3)
14 through (8)” and inserting “para-
15 graphs (3) through (7)”; and

16 (II) by striking “paragraphs (2)
17 through (7)” and inserting “para-
18 graphs (2) through (6)”; and

19 (ii) in subparagraph (B)(iii)—

20 (I) by striking “paragraphs (3)
21 through (8)” and inserting “para-
22 graphs (3) through (7)”; and

23 (II) by striking “paragraphs (2)
24 through (7)” and inserting “para-
25 graphs (2) through (6)”; and

1 (iii) in subparagraph (C)(ii)—

2 (I) in subclause (I), by striking
3 “(9)” and inserting “(8)”; and

4 (II) in subclause (II)—

5 (aa) by striking “paragraphs
6 (3) through (8)” and inserting
7 “paragraphs (3) through (7)”;
8 and

9 (bb) by striking “paragraphs
10 (2) through (7)” and inserting
11 “paragraphs (2) through (6)”;
12 and

13 (iv) in subparagraph (D)(ii)—

14 (I) in subclause (I), by striking
15 “(9)” and inserting “(8)”; and

16 (II) in subclause (II)—

17 (aa) by striking “paragraphs
18 (3) through (8)” and inserting
19 “paragraphs (3) through (7)”;
20 and

21 (bb) by striking “paragraphs
22 (2) through (7)” and inserting
23 “paragraphs (2) through (6)”;
24 and

1 (F) in subsection (h), by striking “para-
 2 graphs (2) through (7)” and inserting “para-
 3 graphs (2) through (6)”;

4 (3) in section 3316—

5 (A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “para-
 6 graphs (2) through (7)” and inserting “para-
 7 graphs (2) through (6)”;

8 (B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “para-
 9 graphs (2) through (7)” and inserting “para-
 10 graphs (2) through (6)”;

11 (4) in section 3321(b)(4), by striking “section
 12 3311(b)(9)” and inserting “section 3311(b)(8)”;

13 (5) in section 3322—

14 (A) in subsection (e), by striking
 15 “3311(b)(9)” and inserting “3311(b)(8)”;

16 (B) in subsection (f), by striking
 17 “3311(b)(9)” and inserting “3311(b)(8)”;

18 (C) in subsection (h)(2), by striking
 19 “3311(b)(9)” and inserting “3311(b)(8)”;

20 (6) in section 3679(c)(2)(B), by striking
 21 “3311(b)(9)” and inserting “3311(b)(8)”.

22 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 23 this section shall take effect on August 1, 2018.

1 **SEC. 103. EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE UNDER POST-9/11**
2 **EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR**
3 **MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AWARDED**
4 **THE PURPLE HEART.**

5 (a) **ELIGIBILITY.**—Section 3311(b) of title 38,
6 United States Code, as amended by section 102, is further
7 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
8 graph:

9 “(9) An individual who is awarded the Purple
10 Heart for service in the Armed Forces occurring on
11 or after September 11, 2001, and continues to serve
12 on active duty in the Armed Forces or is discharged
13 or released from active duty as described in sub-
14 section (c).”.

15 (b) **AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.**—Section 3313(c)(1) of
16 such title is further amended by striking “or (8)” and in-
17 serting “(8), or (9)”.

18 (c) **YELLOW RIBBON ELIGIBILITY.**—Section 3317(a)
19 of such title is amended in the second sentence by striking
20 “paragraphs (1) and (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (1),
21 (2), and (9)”.

22 (d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by
23 this section shall take effect on August 1, 2018.

1 **SEC. 104. ELIGIBILITY FOR POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL AS-**
2 **SISTANCE FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF RE-**
3 **SERVE COMPONENTS OF ARMED FORCES**
4 **WHO LOST ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL**
5 **ASSISTANCE UNDER RESERVE EDUCATIONAL**
6 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

7 (a) ELECTION.—Section 16167 of title 10, United
8 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing new subsection:

10 “(c) ELIGIBILITY FOR POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL AS-
11 SISTANCE.—A member who loses eligibility for benefits
12 under this chapter pursuant to subsection (b) shall be al-
13 lowed to elect (in such form and manner as the Secretary
14 of Veterans Affairs may prescribe) to have such service
15 previously credited toward this chapter credited towards
16 establishing eligibility for educational assistance under
17 chapter 33 of title 38, notwithstanding the provisions of
18 section 16163(e) of this title or section 3322(h)(1) of title
19 38.”.

20 (b) QUALIFICATION OF SERVICE.—Section 3301(1)
21 of title 38, United States Code, shall be construed to in-
22 clude, in the case of a member of a reserve component
23 of the Armed Forces who, before November 25, 2015, es-
24 tablished eligibility for educational assistance under chap-
25 ter 1607 of title 10, United States Code, pursuant to sec-
26 tion 16163(a)(1) of such title, but lost eligibility for such

1 educational assistance pursuant to section 16167(b) of
2 such title, service on active duty (as defined in section 101
3 of such title) that satisfies the requirements of section
4 16163(a)(1) of such title.

5 (c) ENTITLEMENT.—Section 3311(b)(6) of title 38,
6 United States Code, as amended by section 104(a), shall
7 be construed to include an individual who, before Novem-
8 ber 25, 2015, established eligibility for educational assist-
9 ance under chapter 1607 of title 10, United States Code,
10 pursuant to section 16163(b) of such title, but lost such
11 eligibility pursuant to section 16167(b) of such title.

12 (d) DURATION.—Notwithstanding section 3312 of
13 title 38, United States Code, an individual who establishes
14 eligibility for educational assistance under chapter 33 of
15 such title by crediting towards such chapter service pre-
16 viously credited towards chapter 1607 of title 10, United
17 States Code, is only entitled to a number of months of
18 educational assistance under section 3313 of title 38,
19 United States Code, equal to the number of months of
20 entitlement remaining under chapter 1607 of title 10,
21 United States Code, at the time of conversion to chapter
22 33 of title 38, United States Code.

1 **SEC. 105. CALCULATION OF MONTHLY HOUSING STIPEND**
2 **UNDER POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**
3 **PROGRAM BASED ON LOCATION OF CAMPUS**
4 **WHERE CLASSES ARE ATTENDED.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3313(c)(1)(B)(i)(I) of
6 title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “the
7 institution of higher learning at which the individual is
8 enrolled” and inserting “the campus of the institution of
9 higher learning where the individual physically partici-
10 pates in a majority of classes”.

11 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
12 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to initial enrollment
13 in a program of education on or after August 1, 2018.

14 **SEC. 106. CHARGE TO ENTITLEMENT FOR CERTAIN LICEN-**
15 **SURE AND CERTIFICATION TESTS AND NA-**
16 **TIONAL TESTS UNDER DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
17 **ERANS AFFAIRS POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL AS-**
18 **SISTANCE PROGRAM.**

19 (a) LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION TESTS.—Sub-
20 section (c) of section 3315 of title 38, United States Code,
21 is amended—

22 (1) by striking “shall be determined at the rate
23 of one month” and inserting “shall be pro-rated
24 based on the actual amount of the fee charged for
25 the test relative to the rate for one month”; and

1 (2) by striking “for each amount paid that
2 equals” and inserting “payable”.

3 (b) NATIONAL TESTS.—Section 3315A of such title
4 is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
6 following new paragraph:

7 “(3) A national test that evaluates prior learn-
8 ing and knowledge and provides an opportunity for
9 course credit at an institution of higher learning as
10 so described.”; and

11 (2) in subsection (c)—

12 (A) by striking “shall be determined at the
13 rate of one month” and inserting “shall be pro-
14 rated based on the actual amount of the fee
15 charged for the test relative to the rate for one
16 month”; and

17 (B) by striking “for each amount paid that
18 equals” and inserting “payable”.

19 (c) TESTS INCLUDED.—Section 3452(b) of such title
20 is amended in the last sentence—

21 (1) by striking “and national tests providing”
22 and inserting “, national tests providing”; and

23 (2) by inserting before the period at the end the
24 following: “, and national tests that evaluate prior
25 learning and knowledge and provides an opportunity

1 for course credit at an institution of higher learn-
 2 ing”.

3 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 4 this Act shall apply to a test taken on or after August
 5 1, 2018.

6 **SEC. 107. RESTORATION OF ENTITLEMENT TO EDU-**
 7 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND OTHER RELIEF**
 8 **FOR VETERANS AFFECTED BY SCHOOL CLO-**
 9 **SURE OR DISAPPROVAL.**

10 (a) EFFECTS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 36 of title 38,
 12 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
 13 end the following new section:

14 **“§ 3699. Effects of closure or disapproval of edu-**
 15 **cational institution**

16 “(a) CLOSURE OR DISAPPROVAL.—Any payment of
 17 educational assistance described in subsection (b) shall
 18 not—

19 “(1) be charged against any entitlement to edu-
 20 cational assistance of the individual concerned; or

21 “(2) be counted against the aggregate period
 22 for which section 3695 of this title limits the receipt
 23 of educational assistance by such individual.

24 “(b) EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE DESCRIBED.—Sub-
 25 ject to subsection (c), the payment of educational assist-

1 ance described in this paragraph is the payment of such
2 assistance to an individual for pursuit of a course of edu-
3 cation at an educational institution under chapter 30, 32,
4 33, or 35 of this title, or chapter 1606 or 1607 of title
5 10, if the Secretary determines that the individual—

6 “(1) was forced to discontinue the pursuit of
7 such course as a result of—

8 “(A) the permanent closure of the edu-
9 cational institution; or

10 “(B) the disapproval of such course under
11 this chapter by reason of—

12 “(i) a provision of law enacted after
13 the date on which the individual enrolls at
14 such institution affecting the approval or
15 disapproval of courses under this chapter;
16 or

17 “(ii) after the date on which the indi-
18 vidual enrolls at such institution, the Sec-
19 retary prescribing or modifying regulations
20 or policies of the Department affecting
21 such approval or disapproval; and

22 “(2) did not receive credit, or lost training time,
23 toward completion of the program of education being
24 so pursued.

1 “(c) PERIOD NOT CHARGED.—The period for which,
2 by reason of this subsection, educational assistance is not
3 charged against entitlement or counted toward the appli-
4 cable aggregate period under section 3695 of this title
5 shall not exceed the aggregate of—

6 “(1) the portion of the period of enrollment in
7 the course from which the individual failed to receive
8 credit or with respect to which the individual lost
9 training time, as determined under subsection
10 (b)(2), and

11 “(2) the period by which a monthly stipend is
12 extended under section 3680(a)(2)(B) of this title.

13 “(d) CONTINUING PURSUIT OF DISAPPROVED
14 COURSES.—(1) The Secretary may treat a course of edu-
15 cation that is disapproved under this chapter as being ap-
16 proved under this chapter with respect to an individual
17 described in paragraph (2) if the Secretary determines,
18 on a case-by-case basis, that—

19 “(A) such disapproval is the result of an action
20 described in clause (i) or (ii) of subsection (b)(1)(B);
21 and

22 “(B) continuing pursuing such course is in the
23 best interest of the individual.

24 “(2) An individual described in this paragraph is an
25 individual who is pursuing a course of education at an

1 educational institution under chapter 30, 32, 33, or 35
 2 of this title, or chapter 1606 or 1607 of title 10, as of
 3 the date on which the course is disapproved under this
 4 chapter.”.

5 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 6 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended
 7 by inserting after the item relating to section 3698
 8 the following new item:

“3699. Effects of closure or disapproval of educational institution.”.

9 (b) MONTHLY HOUSING STIPEND.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) section 3680
 11 of such title is amended—

12 (A) by striking the matter after paragraph
 13 (3)(B);

14 (B) in paragraph (3), by redesignating
 15 subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and
 16 (ii), respectively;

17 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
 18 through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C),
 19 respectively;

20 (D) in the matter preceding subparagraph
 21 (A), as redesignated, in the first sentence, by
 22 striking “Payment of” and inserting “(1) Ex-
 23 cept as provided in paragraph (2), payment of”;
 24 and

1 (E) by adding at the end the following new
2 paragraph (2):

3 “(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary
4 may, pursuant to such regulations as the Secretary shall
5 prescribe, continue to pay allowances to eligible veterans
6 and eligible persons enrolled in courses set forth in para-
7 graph (1)(A)—

8 “(A) during periods when educational institu-
9 tions are temporarily closed under an established
10 policy based on an Executive order of the President
11 or due to an emergency situation, except that the
12 total number of weeks for which allowances may
13 continue to be so payable in any 12-month period
14 may not exceed four weeks; or

15 “(B) solely for the purpose of awarding a
16 monthly housing stipend described in section 3313
17 of this title, during periods following a permanent
18 closure of an educational institution, or following the
19 disapproval of a course of study described in section
20 3699(b)(1)(B) of this title, except that payment of
21 such a stipend may only be continued until the ear-
22 lier of—

23 “(i) the date of the end of the term, quar-
24 ter, or semester during which the closure or dis-
25 approval occurred; and

1 “(ii) the date that is 120 days after the
2 date of the closure or disapproval.”.

3 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph
4 (1)(C)(ii) of such subsection, as redesignated, is
5 amended by striking “described in subclause (A) of
6 this clause” and inserting “described in clause (i)”.

7 (c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this
8 section shall take effect on the date that is 90 days after
9 the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with
10 respect to courses and programs of education discontinued
11 as described in section 3699 of title 38, United States
12 Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), after January 1,
13 2015.

14 **SEC. 108. INCLUSION OF FRY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS IN**
15 **YELLOW RIBBON G.I. EDUCATION ENHANCE-**
16 **MENT PROGRAM.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3317(a) of title 38,
18 United States Code, is amended by striking “paragraphs
19 (1) and (2) of section 3311(b)” and inserting “paragraphs
20 (1), (2), (8), and (9) of section 3311(b) of this title”.

21 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
22 subsection (a) shall take effect on August 1, 2018.

1 **SEC. 109. ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZED TRANSFER OF UNUSED**
2 **POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENE-**
3 **FITS TO DEPENDENTS UPON DEATH OF**
4 **ORIGINALLY DESIGNATED DEPENDENT.**

5 (a) TRANSFER UPON DEATH OF DEPENDENT.—Sec-
6 tion 3319 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (f)(1), by inserting after “sec-
8 tion 3321” the following: “, and except as provided
9 in subsection (k) or (l),”; and

10 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
11 section:

12 “(k) ADDITIONAL TRANSFER UPON DEATH OF DE-
13 PENDENT.—In the case of a dependent to whom entitle-
14 ment to educational assistance is transferred under this
15 section who dies before using all of such entitlement, the
16 individual who transferred the entitlement to the depend-
17 ent may transfer any remaining entitlement to a different
18 eligible dependent, notwithstanding whether the individual
19 is serving as a member of the Armed Forces when such
20 transfer is executed.

21 “(l) TRANSFER BY DEPENDENT.—In the case of an
22 individual who transfers entitlement to educational assist-
23 ance under this section who dies before the dependent to
24 whom entitlement to educational assistance is so trans-
25 ferred has used all of such entitlement, such dependent

1 may transfer such entitlement to another eligible depend-
 2 ent in accordance with the provisions of this section.”.

3 (b) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

4 (1) ELIGIBLE DEATHS.—The amendments
 5 made by this section shall apply with respect to
 6 deaths occurring on or after August 1, 2009.

7 (2) USE OF ENTITLEMENT.—A dependent to
 8 whom entitlement to educational assistance is trans-
 9 ferred under subsection (k) or (l) of section 3319 of
 10 title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection
 11 (a), may use such entitlement to pursue a course of
 12 education beginning on or after August 1, 2018.

13 **SEC. 110. EDITH NOURSE ROGERS STEM SCHOLARSHIP.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 33 of
 15 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
 16 end the following new section:

17 **“§ 3320. Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the limitation under
 19 subsection (f), the Secretary shall provide additional bene-
 20 fits to eligible individuals selected by the Secretary under
 21 this section. Such benefits shall be known as the ‘Edith
 22 Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship’.

23 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this section, an
 24 eligible individual is an individual—

1 “(1) who is or was entitled to educational as-
2 sistance under section 3311 of this title;

3 “(2) who has used all of the educational assist-
4 ance to which the individual is entitled under this
5 chapter or will, based on the individual’s rate of
6 usage, use all of such assistance within 180 days of
7 applying for benefits under this section;

8 “(3) who applies for assistance under this sec-
9 tion; and

10 “(4) who—

11 “(A) is an individual who—

12 “(i) is enrolled in a program of edu-
13 cation leading to a post-secondary degree
14 that requires more than the standard 128
15 semester (or 192 quarter) credit hours for
16 completion in—

17 “(I) biological or biomedical
18 science;

19 “(II) physical science;

20 “(III) science technologies or
21 technicians;

22 “(IV) computer and information
23 science and support services;

24 “(V) mathematics or statistics;

25 “(VI) engineering;

1 “(VII) engineering technologies
2 or an engineering-related field;

3 “(VIII) a health profession or re-
4 lated program; or

5 “(IX) a medical residency pro-
6 gram; and

7 “(ii) has completed at least 60 stand-
8 ard semester (or 90 quarter) credit hours
9 in a field referred to in clause (i); or

10 “(B) is an individual who has earned a
11 post-secondary degree in a field referred to in
12 subparagraph (A)(i) and is enrolled in a pro-
13 gram of education leading to a teaching certifi-
14 cation.

15 “(c) PRIORITY.—In selecting eligible individuals to
16 receive additional benefits under this section, the Sec-
17 retary shall give priority to the following individuals:

18 “(1) Individuals who require the most credit
19 hours described in subsection (b)(4).

20 “(2) Individuals who are entitled to educational
21 assistance under this chapter by reason of para-
22 graph (1), (2), (8), or (9) of section 3311(b) of this
23 title.

24 “(d) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—(1) The Secretary
25 shall pay to each eligible individual who receives additional

1 benefits under this section a one-time, lump sum payment
2 that is the lesser of the following amounts (adjusted with
3 respect to the individual pursuant to paragraphs (2)
4 through (7) of section 3313(c), as appropriate):

5 “(A) The amount payable under section 3313
6 of this title for nine months of the program of edu-
7 cation in which the individual is enrolled.

8 “(B) \$30,000.

9 “(2) The Secretary may not pay to such an individual
10 an amount in addition to the amount payable under para-
11 graph (1) by reason of section 3317 of this title.

12 “(3) An individual who receives additional benefits
13 under this section may also receive amounts payable by
14 a college or university pursuant to section 3317 of this
15 title.

16 “(e) PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER.—An individual
17 who receives additional benefits under this section may not
18 transfer any amount of such additional benefits under sec-
19 tion 3319 of this title.

20 “(f) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF TOTAL ASSISTANCE.—
21 The total amount of benefits paid to all eligible individuals
22 under this section may not exceed \$100,000,000 for any
23 fiscal year.”.

24 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
25 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting

1 after the item relating to section 3319 the following new
2 item:

“3320. Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship.”.

3 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 3320 of title 38,
4 United States Code, shall take effect on August 1, 2018.

5 **SEC. 111. HONORING THE NATIONAL SERVICE OF MEM-**
6 **BERS OF THE ARMED FORCES BY ELIMI-**
7 **NATION OF TIME LIMITATION FOR USE OF**
8 **ENTITLEMENT.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 3321 of
10 title 38, United States Code, is amended—

11 (1) by striking “individual’s entitlement” and
12 all that follows through the period and inserting “in-
13 dividual’s entitlement—”; and

14 (2) by adding at the end the following new
15 paragraphs:

16 “(1) in the case of an individual who first be-
17 comes entitled to such entitlement before January,
18 1, 2018, expires at the end of the 15-year period be-
19 ginning on the date of such individual’s last dis-
20 charge or release from active duty; or

21 “(2) in the case of an individual who first be-
22 comes entitled to such entitlement on or after Janu-
23 ary 1, 2018, shall not expire.”.

24 (b) CHILDREN OF DECEASED MEMBERS.—Sub-
25 section (b)(4) of such section is amended—

1 (1) by inserting “of this title” after
2 “3311(b)(8)”;

3 (2) by striking “child’s entitlement” and all
4 that follows through the period and inserting
5 “child’s entitlement—”; and

6 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
7 paragraphs:

8 “(A) in the case of a child who first be-
9 comes entitled to such entitlement before Janu-
10 ary 1, 2018, expires at the end of the 15-year
11 period beginning on the date of such child’s
12 eighteenth birthday; or

13 “(B) in the case of a child who first be-
14 comes entitled to such entitlement on or after
15 January 1, 2018, shall not expire.”.

16 **SEC. 112. MONTHLY STIPEND FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF**
17 **THE RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED**
18 **FORCES RECEIVING POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL**
19 **ASSISTANCE.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3313 of title 38, United
21 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
22 lowing new subsection:

23 “(j) DETERMINATION OF MONTHLY STIPENDS DUR-
24 ING CERTAIN ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE.—

1 “(1) PRO RATA BASIS.—In any month in which
 2 an individual described in paragraph (2) is per-
 3 forming active duty service described in section
 4 3301(1)(B) of this title, the Secretary shall deter-
 5 mine the amount of monthly stipends payable under
 6 this section for such month on a pro rata basis for
 7 the period of such month in which the covered indi-
 8 vidual is not performing such active duty service.

9 “(2) INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED.—An individual
 10 described in this paragraph is an individual who is—

11 “(A) a member of the reserve components
 12 of the Armed Forces; and

13 “(B) pursuing a program of education
 14 using educational assistance under this chap-
 15 ter.”.

16 (b) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by sub-
 17 section (a) shall apply with respect to a quarter, semester,
 18 or term, as applicable, commencing on or after August 1,
 19 2018.

20 **SEC. 113. IMPROVEMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
 21 **OF THE VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRA-**
 22 **TION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
 23 **AFFAIRS.**

24 (a) PROCESSING OF CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL ASSIST-
 25 ANCE CLAIMS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall,

1 to the maximum extent possible, make such changes and
2 improvements to the information technology system of the
3 Veterans Benefits Administration of the Department of
4 Veterans Affairs to ensure that—

5 (1) to the maximum extent possible, all original
6 and supplemental claims for educational assistance
7 under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code,
8 are adjudicated electronically; and

9 (2) rules-based processing is used to make deci-
10 sions with respect to such claims with little human
11 intervention.

12 (b) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180
13 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
14 retary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a plan
15 to implement the changes and improvements described in
16 subsection (a).

17 (c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
18 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans
19 Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the implemen-
20 tation of the changes and improvements described in sub-
21 section (a).

22 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
23 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans
24 Affairs \$30,000,000 to carry out this section during fiscal
25 years 2018 and 2019.

1 **SEC. 114. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HIGH**
2 **TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
4 fairs shall carry out a pilot program under which the Sec-
5 retary shall provide eligible veterans with the opportunity
6 to enroll in high technology programs of education.

7 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of the pilot program
8 under this section, an eligible veteran is a veteran who
9 is entitled to educational assistance under the laws admin-
10 istered by the Secretary.

11 (c) CONTRACTS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of carrying out
13 subsection (a), by not later than 180 days after Au-
14 gust 1, 2018, the Secretary shall seek to enter into
15 contracts with multiple qualified providers of high
16 technology programs of education for the provision
17 of such programs to eligible veterans under the pilot
18 program.

19 (2) PAYMENT OF CONTRACTORS.—A contract
20 under this subsection shall provide that the Sec-
21 retary shall pay to a provider—

22 (A) 25 percent of the cost of providing the
23 program of education upon the enrollment of an
24 eligible veteran in the program;

25 (B) 25 percent of such cost upon the com-
26 pletion of the program by the veteran; and

1 (C) 50 percent of such cost upon the em-
2 ployment of the veteran in the field of study of
3 the program following completion of the pro-
4 gram.

5 (3) QUALIFIED PROVIDERS.—For purposes of
6 the pilot program, a provider of a high technology
7 program of education is qualified if—

8 (A) the provider has been operational for
9 at least two years;

10 (B) the provider has successfully provided
11 the high technology program for at least one
12 year; and

13 (C) the provider meets the approval cri-
14 teria developed by the Secretary under para-
15 graph (4).

16 (4) APPROVAL CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall
17 develop criteria for approving providers for purposes
18 of the pilot program. In developing such criteria, the
19 Secretary may consult with State approving agen-
20 cies. Such criteria is not required to meet the re-
21 quirements of section 3672 of title 38, United States
22 Code.

23 (5) TUITION REIMBURSEMENT.—In entering
24 into contracts to carry out the pilot program, the
25 Secretary shall give preference to a qualified pro-

1 vider that offers tuition reimbursement for any stu-
2 dent who—

3 (A) completes a program of education of-
4 fered by the provider; and

5 (B) does not find full-time meaningful em-
6 ployment in the field of study of the program
7 within the 180-day period beginning on the date
8 the student completes the program.

9 (d) HOUSING STIPEND.—The Secretary shall pay to
10 each eligible veteran who is enrolled in a high technology
11 program of education under the pilot program on a full-
12 time basis a monthly housing stipend equal to the prod-
13 uct—

14 (1) of—

15 (A) in the case of a veteran pursuing resi-
16 dent training, the monthly amount of the basic
17 allowance for housing payable under section
18 403 of title 37, United States Code, for a mem-
19 ber with dependents in pay grade E–5 residing
20 in the military housing area that encompasses
21 all or the majority portion of the ZIP code area
22 in which is located the institution at which the
23 individual is enrolled; or

24 (B) in the case of a veteran pursuing a
25 program of education through distance learn-

1 ing, a monthly amount equal to 50 percent of
2 the amount payable under subparagraph (A),
3 multiplied by

4 (2) the lesser of—

5 (A) 1.0; or

6 (B) the number of course hours borne by
7 the individual in pursuit of the program of edu-
8 cation involved, divided by the minimum num-
9 ber of course hours required for full-time pur-
10 suit of such program of education, rounded to
11 the nearest multiple of 10.

12 (e) HIGH TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM OF EDUCATION
13 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “high technology
14 program of education” means a program of education
15 that—

16 (1) is offered by an entity other than an institu-
17 tion of higher learning;

18 (2) does not lead to a degree; and

19 (3) provides instruction in computer program-
20 ming, computer software, media application, data
21 processing, or information sciences.

22 (f) REPORTS.—

23 (1) SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Not
24 later than one year after the date of the enactment
25 of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary

1 shall submit to Congress a report on the pilot pro-
2 gram under this section.

3 (2) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—

4 (A) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than
5 three years after the date on which the Sec-
6 retary first enters into a contract under this
7 section, the Comptroller General of the United
8 States shall submit to Congress a report con-
9 taining the results of the interim assessment of
10 the Comptroller General. Such report shall in-
11 clude the recommendations of the Comptroller
12 General for improving the pilot program and an
13 assessment of each of the following:

14 (i) The technology experience of the
15 directors and instructors of the providers
16 of high technology programs of education
17 under the pilot program.

18 (ii) Whether the providers cooperated
19 with the technology industry to create the
20 curriculum for the program of education.

21 (iii) Whether the providers use an
22 open source curriculum for the program of
23 education.

24 (iv) The admittance rate into the pilot
25 program.

1 (v) The job placement rate for vet-
2 erans who completed a program of edu-
3 cation under the pilot program in the field
4 of study of the program.

5 (vi) The average salary of veterans
6 who completed a program of education
7 under the pilot program and were subse-
8 quently employed.

9 (vii) The average age of veterans who
10 participated in the pilot program.

11 (B) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than five
12 years after the date on which the Secretary first
13 enters into a contract under this section, the
14 Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a
15 final report on the pilot program. Such report
16 shall include the recommendation of the Comp-
17 troller General with respect to whether the pro-
18 gram should be extended and an assessment of
19 each of the following:

20 (i) Each item described in clauses (i)
21 through (vii) of subparagraph (A).

22 (ii) The percentage of veterans who
23 completed a program of education under
24 the pilot program who were subsequently

1 employed for a period of six months or
2 longer in a field of study of the program.

3 (iii) The percentage of veterans who
4 completed a program of education under
5 the pilot program who were subsequently
6 employed for a period of less than six
7 months in a field of study of the program.

8 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
9 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans
10 Affairs \$15,000,000 for each fiscal year during which the
11 Secretary carries out a pilot program under this section.

12 (h) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out a
13 pilot program under this section shall terminate on the
14 date that is five years after the date on which the Sec-
15 retary first enters into a contract under this section.

16 **TITLE II—OTHER EDUCATIONAL** 17 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

18 **SEC. 201. WORK-STUDY ALLOWANCE.**

19 Section 3485(a)(4) of title 38, United States Code,
20 is amended by striking “the period beginning on June 30,
21 2017, and ending on June 30, 2022,” each place it ap-
22 pears and inserting “any time on or after June 30,
23 2017,”.

1 **SEC. 202. DURATION OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE UNDER**
 2 **SURVIVORS’ AND DEPENDENTS’ EDU-**
 3 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

4 Section 3511(a)(1) of title 38, United States Code,
 5 is amended—

6 (1) by striking “chapter for” and all that fol-
 7 lows through the period and inserting “chapter—”;
 8 and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
 10 paragraphs:

11 “(A) in the case of a person who first enrolls
 12 in a program of education using such entitlement be-
 13 fore August 1, 2018, for an aggregate period not in
 14 excess of 45 months (or to the equivalent thereof in
 15 part-time training); or

16 “(B) in the case of a person who first enrolls
 17 in a program of education using such entitlement on
 18 or after August 1, 2018, for an aggregate period not
 19 in excess of 36 months (or to the equivalent thereof
 20 in part-time training).”.

21 **SEC. 203. OLIN E. TEAGUE INCREASE IN AMOUNTS OF EDU-**
 22 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE PAYABLE UNDER**
 23 **SURVIVORS’ AND DEPENDENTS’ EDU-**
 24 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

25 (a) INCREASE.—Section 3532 of title 38, United
 26 States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1)—

3 (i) by striking “\$788” and inserting
4 “\$1,224”;

5 (ii) by striking “\$592” and inserting
6 “\$967”; and

7 (iii) by striking “\$394” and inserting
8 “\$710”; and

9 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking
10 “\$788” and inserting “\$1,224”; and

11 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “\$788” and
12 inserting “\$1,224”.

13 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
14 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to a month that
15 begins on or after August 1, 2018.

16 **TITLE III—ADMINISTRATION OF**
17 **EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**
18 **PROGRAMS**

19 **SEC. 301. STATE APPROVING AGENCY FUNDING.**

20 (a) INCREASE.—Section 3674(a) of title 38, United
21 States Code, is amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “out of
23 amounts available for the payment of readjustment
24 benefits” and inserting “out of amounts in the De-
25 partment of Veterans Affairs readjustment benefits

1 account and amounts appropriated to the Sec-
2 retary”;

3 (2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-
4 graph (5);

5 (3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
6 lowing new paragraph (4):

7 “(4) In addition to amounts made available under
8 paragraph (5), there is authorized to be appropriated to
9 carry out this section \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and
10 each subsequent fiscal year.”; and

11 (4) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated—

12 (A) by striking “The total” and inserting

13 “(A) The total”;

14 (B) by striking “\$19,000,000” and insert-
15 ing “\$21,000,000”; and

16 (C) by adding at the end the following new
17 subparagraph:

18 “(B) Beginning in fiscal year 2019, whenever there
19 is an increase in benefit amounts payable under title II
20 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) as a
21 result of a determination made under section 215(i) of
22 such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)), the Secretary shall, effective
23 on the date of such increase in benefit amounts, increase
24 the amount in effect under subparagraph (A), as in effect
25 immediately prior to the date of such increase in benefit

1 amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act,
 2 by the same percentage as the percentage by which such
 3 benefit amounts are increased.”.

4 **SEC. 302. AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF POST-9/11 EDU-**
 5 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO PURSUE INDE-**
 6 **PENDENT STUDY PROGRAMS AT CERTAIN**
 7 **EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE NOT**
 8 **INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING.**

9 Paragraph (4) of section 3680A(a) of title 38, United
 10 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

11 “(4) any independent study program except an
 12 independent study program (including such a pro-
 13 gram taken over open circuit television) that—

14 “(A) is accredited by a nationally recog-
 15 nized accrediting agency; and

16 “(B) leads—

17 “(i) to a standard college degree;

18 “(ii) to a certificate that reflects edu-
 19 cational attainment offered by an institu-
 20 tion of higher learning; or

21 “(iii) to a certificate that reflects com-
 22 pletion of a course of study offered by—

23 “(I) an area career and technical
 24 education school (as defined in sub-
 25 paragraphs (C) and (D) of section

1 3(3) of the Carl D. Perkins Career
 2 and Technical Education Act of 2006
 3 (20 U.S.C. 2302(3))) that provides
 4 education at the postsecondary level;
 5 or

6 “(II) a postsecondary vocational
 7 institution (as defined in section
 8 102(c) of the Higher Education Act of
 9 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(c))) that pro-
 10 vides education at the postsecondary
 11 level.”.

12 **SEC. 303. PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON PRIORITY EN-**
 13 **ROLLMENT FOR VETERANS IN CERTAIN**
 14 **COURSES OF EDUCATION.**

15 Section 3698(c)(1)(C) of title 38, United States
 16 Code, is amended—

17 (1) in clause (ix), by striking “and” at the end;

18 (2) in clause (x), by striking the period and in-
 19 serting “; and”; and

20 (3) by adding at the end the following new
 21 clause:

22 “(xi) information on whether the institu-
 23 tion administers a priority enrollment system
 24 that allows certain student veterans to enroll in
 25 courses earlier than other students.”.

1 **SEC. 304. LIMITATION ON USE OF REPORTING FEES PAY-**
2 **ABLE TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND**
3 **SPONSORS OF PROGRAMS OF APPRENTICE-**
4 **SHIP.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3684(c) of title 38,
6 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

7 “(c)(1) The Secretary may pay to any educational in-
8 stitution, or to the sponsor of a program of apprenticeship,
9 furnishing education or training under either this chapter
10 or chapter 31, 34, or 35 of this title, a reporting fee which
11 will be in lieu of any other compensation or reimbursement
12 for reports or certifications which such educational institu-
13 tion or sponsor of a program of apprenticeship is required
14 to submit to the Secretary by law or regulation.

15 “(2) Such reporting fee shall be computed for each
16 calendar year by multiplying \$16 by the number of eligible
17 veterans or eligible persons enrolled under this chapter or
18 chapter 31, 34, or 35 of this title. The reporting fee shall
19 be paid to such educational institution or sponsor of a pro-
20 gram of apprenticeship as soon as feasible after the end
21 of the calendar year for which it is applicable.

22 “(3) No reporting fee payable to an educational insti-
23 tution under this subsection shall be subject to offset by
24 the Secretary against any liability of such institution for
25 any overpayment for which such institution may be admin-
26 istratively determined to be liable under section 3685 of

1 this title unless such liability is not contested by such in-
2 stitution or has been upheld by a final decree of a court
3 of appropriate jurisdiction.

4 “(4) Any reporting fee paid to an educational institu-
5 tion or sponsor of a program of apprenticeship after the
6 date of the enactment of the Post-9/11 Veterans Edu-
7 cational Assistance Improvements Act of 2011 (Public
8 Law 111–377)—

9 “(A) shall be utilized by such institution or
10 sponsor solely for the making of certifications re-
11 quired under this chapter or chapter 31, 34, or 35
12 of this title or for otherwise supporting programs for
13 veterans; and

14 “(B) with respect to an institution that has 100
15 or more enrollees described in paragraph (2) may
16 not be used for or merged with amounts available
17 for the general fund of the educational institution or
18 sponsor of a program of apprenticeship.

19 “(5) The reporting fee payable under this subsection
20 shall be paid from amounts appropriated for readjustment
21 benefits.”.

22 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
23 subsection (a) shall take effect on August 1, 2018.

1 **SEC. 305. TRAINING FOR SCHOOL CERTIFYING OFFICIALS.**

2 (a) **TRAINING REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary of
3 Veterans Affairs shall, in consultation with the State ap-
4 proving agencies, set forth requirements relating to train-
5 ing for school certifying officials employed by covered edu-
6 cational institutions offering courses of education ap-
7 proved under chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code.
8 If a covered educational institution does not ensure that
9 a school certifying official employed by the educational in-
10 stitution meets such requirements, the Secretary may dis-
11 approve any course of education offered by such edu-
12 cational institution.

13 (b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

14 (1) The term “covered educational institution”
15 means an educational institution that has enrolled
16 20 or more individuals using educational assistance
17 under title 38, United States Code.

18 (2) The term “school certifying official” means
19 an employee of an educational institution with pri-
20 mary responsibility for certifying veteran enrollment
21 at the educational institution.

22 (3) The term “State approving agency” means
23 a department or agency of a State designated under
24 section 3671 of title 38, United States Code.

25 (c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section shall take effect
26 on August 1, 2018.

1 **SEC. 306. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR ADVISORY COM-**
2 **MITTEE ON EDUCATION.**

3 Section 3692 of such title is amended by striking
4 “December 31, 2017” and inserting “December 31,
5 2022”.

6 **SEC. 307. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVISION**
7 **OF ON-CAMPUS EDUCATIONAL AND VOCA-**
8 **TIONAL COUNSELING FOR VETERANS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 36 of title 38, United
10 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3697A
11 the following new section:

12 **“§ 3697B. On-campus educational and vocational**
13 **counseling**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide edu-
15 cational and vocational counseling services for individuals
16 described in section 3697A(b) of this title at locations on
17 the campuses of institutions of higher learning selected by
18 the Secretary. Such counseling services shall be provided
19 by employees of the Department who provide such services
20 under section 3697A of this title.

21 “(b) SELECTION OF LOCATIONS.—(1) To be selected
22 by the Secretary under this section, an institution of high-
23 er learning shall provide an appropriate space on the cam-
24 pus of the institution where counseling services can be pro-
25 vided under this section.

1 “(2) In selecting locations for the provision of coun-
2 seling services under this section, the Secretary shall seek
3 to select locations where the maximum number of veterans
4 would have access to such services.

5 “(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days
6 after the date of the enactment of this section, and each
7 year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a
8 report on the counseling services provided under this sec-
9 tion. Such report shall include, for the year covered by
10 the report—

11 “(1) the average ratio of counselors providing
12 such services to individuals who received such serv-
13 ices at each location where such services were pro-
14 vided;

15 “(2) a description of such services provided;

16 “(3) the recommendations of the Secretary for
17 improving the provision of such services; and

18 “(4) any other matters the Secretary deter-
19 mines appropriate.”.

20 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
21 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
22 after the item relating to section 3697A the following new
23 item:

“3697B. On-campus educational and vocational counseling.”.

1 **SEC. 308. PROVISION OF INFORMATION REGARDING VET-**
2 **ERAN ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL AS-**
3 **SISTANCE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 36 of
5 title 38, United States Code, is further amended by adding
6 at the end the following new section:

7 **“§ 3699A. Provision of certain information to edu-**
8 **cational institutions**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—For each veteran or other indi-
10 vidual pursuing a course of education that has been ap-
11 proved under this chapter using educational assistance to
12 which the veteran or other individual is entitled under
13 chapter 30, 32, 33, or 35 of this title, the Secretary shall
14 make available to the educational institution offering the
15 course information about the amount of such educational
16 assistance to which the veteran or other individual is enti-
17 tled. Such information shall be provided to such edu-
18 cational institution through a secure information tech-
19 nology system accessible by the educational institution and
20 shall be regularly updated to reflect any amounts used by
21 the veteran or other individual.

22 “(b) ELECTION.—A veteran or other individual pur-
23 suing a course of education described in subsection (a)
24 may elect not to provide the information described in such
25 subsection to an educational institution in a manner pre-
26 scribed by the Secretary.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 2 at the beginning of such chapter is further amended by
 3 inserting after the item relating to section 3699 the fol-
 4 lowing new item:

“3699A. Provision of certain information to educational institutions.”.

5 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 3699A of title 38,
 6 United States Code, as added by this section, shall take
 7 effect on August 1, 2018.

8 **SEC. 309. TREATMENT, FOR PURPOSES OF EDUCATIONAL**
 9 **ASSISTANCE ADMINISTERED BY THE SEC-**
 10 **RETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, OF EDU-**
 11 **CATIONAL COURSES THAT BEGIN SEVEN OR**
 12 **FEWER DAYS AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF AN**
 13 **ACADEMIC TERM.**

14 Section 3684(a) of title 38, United States Code, is
 15 amended—

16 (1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-
 17 graph (5); and

18 (2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
 19 lowing new paragraph (4):

20 “(4) A course offered by an educational institution
 21 that does not begin on the first day of an academic term,
 22 but does begin seven or fewer days after such day, shall
 23 be treated as beginning on such day for purposes of this
 24 section.”.

**TITLE IV—RESERVE
COMPONENT BENEFITS**

**SEC. 401. ELIGIBILITY OF RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS
FOR POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3301(1)(B) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “or 12304” and inserting “12304, 12304a, or 12304b”.

(b) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to service in the Armed Forces occurring on or after the date of the enactment of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–252).

(c) APPLICATION WITH RESPECT TO USE OF ENTITLEMENT.—An individual who is entitled to educational assistance by reason of the amendment made by subsection (a) may use such entitlement to pursue a course of education beginning on or after August 1, 2018.

SEC. 402. TIME LIMITATION FOR TRAINING AND REHABILITATION FOR VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.

Section 3103(f) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “or 12304” and inserting “12304, 12304a, or 12304b”.

1 **TITLE V—OTHER MATTERS**

2 **SEC. 501. REPEAL INAPPLICABILITY OF MODIFICATION OF**
3 **BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING TO BENE-**
4 **FITS UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY SEC-**
5 **RETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) REPEAL.—Subsection (b) of section 604 of the
7 Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National De-
8 fense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law
9 113–291; 37 U.S.C. 403 note) is repealed.

10 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
11 subsection (a) shall take effect on January 1, 2018, and
12 shall apply with respect to individuals who first use their
13 entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 33 of
14 title 38, United States Code, on or after such date.

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