

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3503

AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to treat certain programs of education converted to distance learning by reason of emergencies and health-related situations in the same manner as programs of education pursued at educational institutions, 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. CONTINUATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
4 **ERANS AFFAIRS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**
5 **BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS OF EDU-**
6 **CATION CONVERTED TO DISTANCE LEARN-**
7 **ING BY REASON OF EMERGENCIES AND**
8 **HEALTH-RELATED SITUATIONS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a program of edu-
10 cation approved by a State approving agency, or the Sec-
11 retary of Veterans Affairs when acting in the role of a
12 State approving agency, that is converted from being of-
13 fered on-site at an educational institution to being offered
14 by distance learning by reason of an emergency or health-
15 related situation, as determined by the Secretary, the Sec-
16 retary may continue to provide educational assistance
17 under the laws administered by the Secretary without re-
18 gard to such conversion, including with respect to paying
19 any—

20 (1) monthly housing stipends under chapter 33
21 of title 38, United States Code; or

22 (2) payments or subsistence allowances under
23 chapters 30, 31, 32, and 35 of such title and chap-
24 ters 1606 and 1607 of title 10, United States Code.

1 (b) APPLICABILITY PERIOD.—Subsection (a) shall
2 apply during the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and
3 ending on December 21, 2020.

4 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term
6 “educational institution” has the meaning given that
7 term in section 3452 of title 38, United States Code,
8 and includes an institution of higher learning (as de-
9 fined in such section).

10 (2) PROGRAM OF EDUCATION.—The term “pro-
11 gram of education” has the meaning given that term
12 in section 3002 of title 38, United States Code.

13 (3) STATE APPROVING AGENCY.—The term
14 “State approving agency” has the meaning given
15 that term in section 3671 of title 38, United States
16 Code.

17 **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS.**

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

21 (b) DESIGNATION IN SENATE.—In the Senate, this
22 Act is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant
23 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 Senate March 16, 2020.

Attest:

Secretary.

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