

Union Calendar No. 537

115TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4830

[Report No. 115-694]

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the disapproval of any course of education for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs unless the educational institution providing the course permits individuals to attend or participate in courses pending payment by Department, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 18, 2018

Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. POSEY, Mr. MAST, Mr. JONES, and Mr. O'ROURKE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

MAY 21, 2018

Additional sponsors: Mr. KHANNA and Mr. BARR

MAY 21, 2018

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on January 18, 2018]

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the disapproval of any course of education for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs unless the educational institution providing the course permits individuals to attend or participate in courses pending payment by Department, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Servicemembers Im-*
5 *proved Transition through Reforms for Ensuring Progress*
6 *Act” or the “SIT-REP Act”.*

7 **SEC. 2. DISAPPROVAL FOR PURPOSES OF EDUCATIONAL AS-**
8 **SISTANCE PROGRAMS OF DEPARTMENT OF**
9 **VETERANS AFFAIRS OF CERTAIN COURSES OF**
10 **EDUCATION THAT DO NOT PERMIT INDIVID-**
11 **UALS TO ATTEND OR PARTICIPATE IN**
12 **COURSES PENDING PAYMENT.**

13 *Section 3679 of title 38, United States Code, is amend-*
14 *ed by adding at the end the following new subsection:*

15 *“(e)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this*
16 *chapter, beginning on August 1, 2018, a State approving*
17 *agency, or the Secretary when acting in the role of the State*
18 *approving agency, shall disapprove a course of education*
19 *provided by an educational institution unless the edu-*
20 *cational institution has adopted the following policies:*

21 *“(A) A policy that permits any covered indi-*
22 *vidual to attend or participate in the course of edu-*
23 *cation during the period beginning on the date on*
24 *which the individual provides to the educational in-*
25 *stitution a certificate of eligibility for entitlement to*

1 *educational assistance under chapter 31 or 33 of this*
2 *title and ending on the earlier of the following dates:*

3 *“(i) The date on which the Secretary pro-*
4 *vides payment for such course of education to*
5 *such institution.*

6 *“(ii) The date that is 90 days after the date*
7 *on which the individual provides to the edu-*
8 *cational institution such certificate of eligibility.*

9 *“(B) A policy that ensures that the educational*
10 *institution will not impose any penalty, including the*
11 *assessment of late fees, the denial of access to classes,*
12 *libraries, or other institutional facilities, or the re-*
13 *quirement that a covered individual borrow addi-*
14 *tional funds, on any covered individual because of the*
15 *individual’s inability to meet his or her financial ob-*
16 *ligations to the institution as a result of the delayed*
17 *disbursement of any payment to be provided by the*
18 *Secretary.*

19 *“(2) For purposes of this subsection, a covered indi-*
20 *vidual is any individual who is entitled to educational as-*
21 *sistance under chapter 31 or 33 of this title.*

22 *“(3) The Secretary may waive such requirements of*
23 *paragraph (1) as the Secretary considers appropriate.”.*

1 **SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION REGARDING APPLICABILITY OF AU-**
2 **THORITY TO USE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**
3 **TO PURSUE INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAMS**
4 **AT CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**
5 **THAT ARE NOT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER**
6 **LEARNING.**

7 *The section heading for section 302 of the Harry W.*
8 *Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Pub-*
9 *lic Law 115–48) is amended to read as follows (and the*
10 *table of contents for such Act is conformed accordingly):*

11 **“SEC. 302. AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF EDUCATIONAL AS-**
12 **SISTANCE UNDER ANY OF THE EDUCATIONAL**
13 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OF THE DEPART-**
14 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO PURSUE**
15 **INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAMS AT CER-**
16 **TAIN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE**
17 **NOT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING.”.**

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