

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3503

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 16, 2020

Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. DURBIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice, considered, read the third time, and passed

A BILL

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. CONTINUATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
 2 **ERANS AFFAIRS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**
 3 **BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS OF EDU-**
 4 **CATION CONVERTED TO DISTANCE LEARN-**
 5 **ING BY REASON OF EMERGENCIES AND**
 6 **HEALTH-RELATED SITUATIONS.**

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

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

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

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

26 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

9 (3) STATE APPROVING AGENCY.—The term
 10 “State approving agency” has the meaning given
 11 that term in section 3671 of title 38, United States
 12 Code.

13 **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS.**

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

17 (b) DESIGNATION IN SENATE.—In the Senate, this
 18 Act is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant
 19 to section 4112(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress),
 20 the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year
 21 2018.

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