

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10260

To amend title 38, United States Code, and title 10, United States Code, to eliminate those provisions relating to veterans educational assistance that disadvantage eligible individuals who choose to pursue programs of apprenticeship or other on-job training instead of a four-year college degree, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

Mr. FINSTAD (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY of New York) 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, and title 10, United States Code, to eliminate those provisions relating to veterans educational assistance that disadvantage eligible individuals who choose to pursue programs of apprenticeship or other on-job training instead of a four-year college degree, 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 “Reducing Arbitrary
3 Barriers to Apprenticeship Act of 2026”.

4 **SEC. 2. ELIMINATING PROVISIONS RELATING TO VET-**
5 **ERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE THAT DIS-**
6 **ADVANTAGE ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WHO**
7 **CHOOSE TO PURSUE PROGRAMS OF APPREN-**
8 **TICESHIP OR OTHER ON-JOB TRAINING.**

9 (a) POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—

10 (1) ENSURING THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE
11 FOR FULL-TIME PROGRAM OF APPRENTICESHIP OR
12 OTHER ON-JOB TRAINING DOES NOT DETER INDIV-
13 IDUALS INTERESTED IN SUCH PROGRAMS AND
14 TRAINING.—Clause (i) of section 3313(g)(3)(B) of
15 title 38, Unites States Code, is amended by striking
16 “a monthly housing stipend equal to—” and all that
17 follows through the period at the end and inserting
18 the following: “a monthly housing stipend equal to
19 the monthly amount of the basic allowance for hous-
20 ing payable under section 403 of title 37 for a mem-
21 ber with dependents in pay grade E–5 residing in
22 the military housing area that encompasses all or
23 the majority portion of the ZIP Code area in which
24 is located the employer at which the individual pur-
25 sues such program.”.

1 (2) WAIVER OF MINIMUM ATTENDANCE RE-
2 QUIREMENT FOR RECEIPT OF ASSISTANCE FOR PRO-
3 GRAMS OF APPRENTICESHIP AND OTHER ON-JOB
4 TRAINING IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.—Clause
5 (iv) of such section is amended—

6 (A) by striking “In any month” and insert-
7 ing “(I) Except as provided in subclause (II), in
8 any month”; and

9 (B) by adding at the end the following new
10 subclause:

11 “(II) Subclause (I) shall not apply to
12 an individual pursuing a program of ap-
13 prenticeship or other on-job training for an
14 occupation that performs work classified in
15 Sector 23 of the most recent publication of
16 the North American Industry Classification
17 System.”.

18 (b) ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCE EDUCATIONAL ASSIST-
19 ANCE PROGRAM.—

20 (1) ENSURING THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE
21 FOR FULL-TIME PROGRAM OF APPRENTICESHIP OR
22 OTHER ON-JOB TRAINING DOES NOT DETER INDI-
23 VIDUALS INTERESTED IN SUCH PROGRAMS AND
24 TRAINING.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of sec-
2 tion 3032(c) of such title is amended by strik-
3 ing “this chapter is—” and all that follows
4 through the period at the end and inserting the
5 following: “this chapter is 100 percent of the
6 monthly educational assistance allowance other-
7 wise payable to such individual under this chap-
8 ter.”.

9 (B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Para-
10 graph (3) of such section is amended by strik-
11 ing “at the rate of—” and all that follows
12 through the period at the end and inserting the
13 following: “at the rate of 100 percent of a
14 month.”.

15 (2) WAIVER OF MINIMUM ATTENDANCE RE-
16 QUIREMENT FOR RECEIPT OF ASSISTANCE FOR PRO-
17 GRAMS OF APPRENTICESHIP AND OTHER ON-JOB
18 TRAINING IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.—Paragraph
19 (2) of such section is amended—

20 (A) by striking “In any month” and insert-
21 ing “(A) Except as provided in subparagraph
22 (B), in any month”; and

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

1 “(B) Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to an indi-
2 vidual pursuing a program of apprenticeship or other on-
3 job training for an occupation that performs work classi-
4 fied in Sector 23 of the most recent publication of the
5 North American Industry Classification System.”.

6 (c) EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR MEMBERS OF
7 THE SELECTED RESERVE.—

8 (1) ENSURING THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE
9 FOR FULL-TIME PROGRAM OF APPRENTICESHIP OR
10 OTHER ON-JOB TRAINING DOES NOT DETER INDIV-
11 IDUALS INTERESTED IN SUCH PROGRAMS AND
12 TRAINING.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of sec-
14 tion 16131(d) of title 10, United States Code,
15 is amended by striking “this chapter is—” and
16 all that follows through the period at the end
17 and inserting the following: “this chapter is 100
18 percent of the monthly educational assistance
19 allowance otherwise payable to such person
20 under this chapter.”.

21 (B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Para-
22 graph (3) of such section is amended by strik-
23 ing “at the rate of—” and all that follows
24 through the period at the end and inserting the

1 following: “at the rate of 100 percent of a
2 month.”.

3 (2) WAIVER OF MINIMUM ATTENDANCE RE-
4 QUIREMENT FOR RECEIPT OF ASSISTANCE FOR PRO-
5 GRAMS OF APPRENTICESHIP AND OTHER ON-JOB
6 TRAINING IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.—Paragraph
7 (2) of such section is amended—

8 (A) by striking “In any month” and insert-
9 ing “(A) Except as provided in subparagraph
10 (B), in any month”; and

11 (B) by adding at the end the following new
12 subclause:

13 “(B) Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to an indi-
14 vidual pursuing a program of apprenticeship or other on-
15 job training for an occupation that performs work classi-
16 fied in Sector 23 of the most recent publication of the
17 North American Industry Classification System.”.

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