

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3146

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to include service as a volunteer firefighter or volunteer emergency medical technician as a public service job for purposes of eligibility for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 1, 2025

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York (for himself and Mr. FIELDS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to include service as a volunteer firefighter or volunteer emergency medical technician as a public service job for purposes of eligibility for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, 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 “Helping Emergency
5 Responders Overcome Student Debt Act” or the “HE-
6 ROES Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR VOLUNTEER FIRST RE-**
2 **SPONDERS.**

3 Section 455(m)(3) of the Higher Education Act of
4 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(m)(3)) is amended—

5 (1) in subparagraph (B)—

6 (A) in clause (i), by striking “or” after the
7 semicolon;

8 (B) in clause (ii), by striking the period at
9 the end and inserting “; or”; and

10 (C) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(iii) volunteer work as a qualified
12 volunteer firefighter or qualified volunteer
13 emergency medical technician in accord-
14 ance with subparagraph (C).”; and

15 (2) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(C) QUALIFIED VOLUNTEER FIRE-
17 FIGHTER; QUALIFIED EMERGENCY MEDICAL
18 TECHNICIAN.—

19 “(i) The term ‘qualified volunteer fire-
20 fighter’ means an individual who—

21 “(I) provides firefighting services,
22 fire prevention services, emergency
23 medical services, or other related
24 emergency response services on behalf
25 of a legally recognized fire department
26 or public safety organization; and

1 “(II) is not otherwise directly
2 employed on a full-time basis by the
3 same fire department or public safety
4 organization for which they provide
5 such services.

6 “(ii) The term ‘qualified volunteer
7 emergency medical technician’ means an
8 individual who—

9 “(I) is trained and certified, li-
10 censed, or otherwise authorized under
11 applicable state or local laws to pro-
12 vide emergency medical care, pre-hos-
13 pital care, or ambulance services in
14 response to medical emergencies;

15 “(II) performs such care or serv-
16 ices on behalf of an ambulance serv-
17 ice, fire department, healthcare facil-
18 ity, or public safety organization; and

19 “(III) is not otherwise directly
20 employed on a full-time basis by the
21 same ambulance service, fire depart-
22 ment, healthcare facility, or public
23 safety organization for which they
24 provide such care or services.

25 “(iii) The Secretary shall—

1 “(I) determine the minimum vol-
2 unteer time required for a qualified
3 volunteer firefighter or a qualified vol-
4 unteer emergency medical technician
5 to be treated as an individual em-
6 ployed in a full-time job for purposes
7 of this subsection; and

8 “(II) ensure that such minimum
9 volunteer time is not less than the
10 amount of volunteer time that is re-
11 quired for the qualified volunteer fire-
12 fighter or a qualified volunteer emer-
13 gency medical technician to be consid-
14 ered an active member of the relevant
15 ambulance service, fire department,
16 healthcare facility, or public safety or-
17 ganization.

18 “(D) PUBLIC SAFETY ORGANIZATION.—
19 The term ‘public safety organization’ means
20 any State, local, or tribal governmental agency
21 or nonprofit organization that has the principal
22 purpose of protecting the safety of life, health,
23 or property.”.

1 **SEC. 3. REGULATIONS.**

2 The Secretary of Education shall promulgate, after
3 consultation with public safety organizations (which shall
4 include firefighter and emergency responder organiza-
5 tions), regulations to carry out the amendments made by
6 section 2, including regulations relating to—

7 (1) the minimum volunteer time required for a
8 qualified volunteer firefighter and qualified volunteer
9 emergency medical technician to be treated as an in-
10 dividual employed in a full-time job for purposes of
11 section 455(m) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
12 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(m)); and

13 (2) the process of tracking and verifying that
14 volunteer time.

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