

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5023

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the payment of stipends to veterans who pursue doctoral degrees in science or technology.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2004

Mr. SWEENEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the payment of stipends to veterans who pursue doctoral degrees in science or technology.

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 “G.I. Advanced Edu-
5 cation in Science and Technology Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The United States is starting to lose domi-
9 nance in science and technology.

1 (2) Increasingly the mothers and fathers of sci-
2 entific and technological invention are not American,
3 and the number of new doctorates in the sciences,
4 and the number of doctoral students from other
5 countries staying in the United States, are on the
6 decline.

7 (3) This decline has serious implications for
8 jobs, industry, and national security in the United
9 States.

10 (4) Shortages in the science and technology
11 base of the United States will be addressed, in part,
12 by creating a scientific and technology doctoral
13 study program in math, science, engineering, and
14 technology for veterans.

15 **SEC. 3. STIPENDS FOR PURSUIT OF DOCTORAL DEGREES**
16 **IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 30 of title 38, United
18 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
19 lowing new subchapter:

1 “SUBCHAPTER V—STIPENDS FOR VETERANS
2 PURSUING DOCTORAL DEGREES IN
3 SCIENCE OR TECHNOLOGY

4 “§ 3041. Stipend for pursuit of certain doctoral de-
5 grees

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of ap-
7 propriations for such purpose, the Secretary shall pay a
8 monthly stipend to each eligible doctoral candidate under
9 this subchapter for each month that the candidate is pur-
10 suing full-time a doctoral degree in the physical or natural
11 sciences, engineering, mathematics, or other scientific or
12 technology disciplines.

13 “(b) ELIGIBLE DOCTORAL CANDIDATES DEFINED.—
14 In this subchapter, the term ‘eligible doctoral candidate’
15 means an individual who meets the following require-
16 ments:

17 “(1) The individual meets the requirements
18 that apply under section 3011 for entitlement to
19 basic educational assistance under subchapter II of
20 this title, other than requirement under subsection
21 (c) of such section 3011 (relating to reductions in
22 basic pay).

23 “(2) The individual is pursuing full-time a doc-
24 toral degree in the physical or natural sciences, engi-
25 neering, mathematics, or other scientific or tech-

1 nology disciplines, after having completed a bach-
2 elor’s degree program in any academic discipline at
3 an institution of higher education.

4 “(c) RELATION TO BASIC MONTGOMERY GI BILL
5 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Payment of educational as-
6 sistance under this subchapter is in addition to payment
7 of educational assistance under subchapter II or III of this
8 chapter.

9 **“§ 3042. Duration of payments**

10 “Payments of stipends under section 3041 of this
11 title to an eligible doctoral candidate may be made for a
12 period not to exceed a total of 60 months.

13 **“§ 3043. Amount of stipend**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the
15 Secretary shall pay to an eligible doctoral candidate pur-
16 suing a course at an institution of higher learning leading
17 to a doctoral degree referred to in section 3041(a) of this
18 title at the monthly rate of \$1,200.

19 “(b) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—With respect to
20 any fiscal year beginning after fiscal year 2005, the Sec-
21 retary shall provide a percentage increase (rounded to the
22 nearest dollar) in the rate payable under subsection (a)
23 equal to the percentage by which—

24 “(1) the Consumer Price Index (all items,
25 United States city average) for the 12-month period

1 ending on the June 30 preceding the beginning of
2 the fiscal year for which the increase is made, ex-
3 ceeds

4 “(2) such Consumer Price Index for the 12-
5 month period preceding the 12-month period de-
6 scribed in paragraph (1).

7 “(c) DISREGARD OF STIPEND AMOUNT IN DETER-
8 MINATION OF ASSISTANCE FROM INSTITUTION OF HIGH-
9 ER LEARNING.—Notwithstanding any other provision of
10 law, an institution of higher learning may not take into
11 account payments made to an eligible doctoral candidate
12 under section 3041 of this title in determining the amount
13 of financial assistance (such as stipends and tuition remit-
14 tance) the institution would otherwise provide to the eligi-
15 ble doctoral candidate.

16 **“§ 3044. Requirements**

17 “Payments of stipends under section 3041 of this
18 title to an eligible doctoral candidate may be made only
19 insofar as the eligible doctoral candidate—

20 “(1) has been accepted into an accredited doc-
21 toral program at an institution of higher learning;

22 “(2) provides annual documentation to the Sec-
23 retary of full-time matriculation in the doctoral pro-
24 gram; and

25 “(3) maintains good academic standing.

1 **“§ 3045. Time limitation for payment of stipends**

2 “The period during which the Secretary may make
3 payments of stipends under section 3041 of this title to
4 an eligible doctoral candidate under this subchapter ex-
5 pires at the end of the 10-year period beginning on the
6 date on which the eligible doctoral candidate first begins
7 pursuing full-time such doctoral degree.

8 **“§ 3046. Annual authorization of appropriations**

9 “There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
10 retary to carry out this subchapter for each fiscal year,
11 beginning with fiscal year 2005, \$14,900,000.”.

12 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(1) Section 3011
13 of such title is amended in subsection (f)(1) and (g) by
14 striking “chapter” each place it appears and inserting
15 “subchapter”.

16 (2) Section 3018A(a) of such title is amended by
17 striking “education assistance under this chapter” and in-
18 serting “educational assistance under this subchapter”.

19 (3) Section 3018B of such title is amended by strik-
20 ing “education assistance under this chapter” each place
21 it appears and inserting “educational assistance under
22 this subchapter”.

23 (4) Section 3018C of such title is amended by strik-
24 ing “educational assistance under this chapter” each place
25 it appears and inserting “educational assistance under
26 this subchapter”.

1 (5) Section 3019 of such title is amended by striking
2 “chapter” each place it appears and inserting “sub-
3 chapter”.

4 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
5 at the beginning of chapter 30 of title 38, United States
6 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new
7 items:

“SUBCHAPTER V—STIPENDS FOR VETERANS PURSUING DOCTORAL DEGREES
IN SCIENCE OR TECHNOLOGY

- “3041. Stipend for pursuit of certain doctoral degrees.
- “3042. Duration of payments.
- “3043. Amount of stipend.
- “3044. Requirements.
- “3045. Time limitation for payment of stipends.
- “3046. Annual authorization of appropriations.”.

