

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 421

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

JANUARY 26, 2005

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 the sciences of engineering, mathe-
14 matics, and 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 sciences of engi-
11 neering, mathematics, or other technology disciplines.

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

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

22 “(2) The individual is pursuing full-time a doc-
23 toral degree in the sciences of engineering, mathe-
24 matics, or technology disciplines, after having com-

1 pleted a bachelor’s degree program in any academic
2 discipline at an institution of higher education.

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

8 **“§ 3042. Duration of payments**

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

12 **“§ 3043. Amount of stipend**

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

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

23 “(1) the Consumer Price Index (all items,
24 United States city average) for the 12-month period
25 ending on the June 30 preceding the beginning of

1 the fiscal year for which the increase is made, ex-
2 ceeds

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

6 **“§ 3044. Requirements**

7 “Payments of stipends under section 3041 of this
8 title to an eligible doctoral candidate may be made only
9 insofar as the eligible doctoral candidate—

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

12 “(2) provides annual documentation to the Sec-
13 retary of full-time matriculation in the doctoral pro-
14 gram; and

15 “(3) maintains good academic standing.

16 **“§ 3045. Time limitation for payment of stipends**

17 “The period during which the Secretary may make
18 payments of stipends under section 3041 of this title to
19 an eligible doctoral candidate under this subchapter ex-
20 pires at the end of the 10-year period beginning on the
21 date on which the eligible doctoral candidate is discharged
22 or released from active duty in the Armed Forces.”.

23 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(1) Section 3011
24 of such title is amended in subsection (f)(1) and (g) by

1 striking “chapter” each place it appears and inserting
2 “subchapter”.

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

6 (3) Section 3018B of such title is amended by strik-
7 ing “education assistance under this chapter” each place
8 it appears and inserting “educational assistance under
9 this subchapter”.

10 (4) Section 3018C of such title is amended by strik-
11 ing “educational assistance under this chapter” each place
12 it appears and inserting “educational assistance under
13 this subchapter”.

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

17 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
18 at the beginning of chapter 30 of title 38, United States
19 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new
20 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.”.

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