

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1631

To amend title 37, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that members of the Armed Forces serving in a combat zone automatically receive the education benefits to which they are entitled.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 18, 2013

Mr. MARKEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 37, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that members of the Armed Forces serving in a combat zone automatically receive the education benefits to which they are entitled.

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 “Accessing Military
5 Education Benefits Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EFFORTS TO ENSURE**
2 **OPERATION OF CURRENT PROHIBITION ON**
3 **ACCRUAL OF INTEREST ON DIRECT STUDENT**
4 **LOANS OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES**
5 **RECEIVING IMMINENT DANGER PAY OR HAZ-**
6 **ARDOUS DUTY PAY.**

7 (a) MEMBERS RECEIVING IMMINENT DANGER
8 PAY.—Section 310 of title 37, United States Code, is
9 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
10 section:

11 “(f) NO ACCRUAL OF STUDENT LOAN INTEREST FOR
12 MEMBERS SERVING IN AREAS OF HOSTILITIES.—When
13 a member is assigned to duty in an area for which special
14 pay is available under subsection (a), the Secretary of De-
15 fense shall ensure that, if the member has any direct stu-
16 dent loans, the member automatically obtains the benefits
17 provided under section 455(o) of the Higher Education
18 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(o)). The Secretary may
19 waive application of this subsection if the Secretary cer-
20 tifies that such application may adversely impact the na-
21 tional security interests of the United States.”.

22 (b) MEMBERS RECEIVING HAZARDOUS DUTY PAY.—
23 Section 351 of such title is amended—

24 (1) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-
25 section (i); and

1 (2) by inserting after subsection (g) the fol-
2 lowing new subsection (h):

3 “(h) NO ACCRUAL OF STUDENT LOAN INTEREST
4 FOR MEMBERS SERVING IN AREAS OF HOSTILITIES.—
5 When a member is assigned to duty in an area for which
6 special pay is available under paragraph (1) or (3) of sub-
7 section (a), the Secretary of Defense shall ensure that, if
8 the member has any direct student loans, the member
9 automatically obtains the benefits provided under section
10 455(o) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
11 1087e(o)). The Secretary may waive application of this
12 subsection if the Secretary certifies that such application
13 may adversely impact the national security interests of the
14 United States.”.

15 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 90 days after
16 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
17 Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Serv-
18 ices of the Senate and House of Representatives a plan
19 describing how the Secretary will implement the amend-
20 ments made by this section to ensure that members of the
21 Armed Forces automatically obtain the benefits provided
22 under section 455(o) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
23 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(o)). Implementation of the plan shall

1 commence not later than 180 days after the date of the
2 enactment of this Act.

