

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6003

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide veterans affected by school closures certain relief and restoration of educational benefits, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2016

Mr. MESSER (for himself, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. BUCSHON, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. ROKITA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide veterans affected by school closures certain relief and restoration of educational benefits, 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 “Protecting Our Vet-
5 erans From School Closures Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. RESTORATION OF ENTITLEMENT TO POST-9/11 EDU-**
2 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS AF-**
3 **FECTED BY CLOSURES OF EDUCATIONAL IN-**
4 **STITUTIONS.**

5 (1) EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 3312
6 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by add-
7 ing at the end the following new subsection:

8 “(d) DISCONTINUATION OF EDUCATION DUE TO
9 CLOSURE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any payment of edu-
11 cational assistance described in paragraph (2) shall
12 not—

13 “(A) be charged against any entitlement to
14 educational assistance of the individual con-
15 cerned under this chapter; or

16 “(B) be counted against the aggregate pe-
17 riod for which section 3695 of this title limits
18 the individual’s receipt of educational assistance
19 under this chapter.

20 “(2) DESCRIPTION OF PAYMENT OF EDU-
21 CATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Subject to paragraph (3),
22 the payment of educational assistance described in
23 this paragraph is the payment of such assistance to
24 an individual for pursuit of a course or courses
25 under this chapter if the Secretary finds that the in-
26 dividual—

1 “(A) was forced to discontinue such course
2 of study pursuit as a result of a permanent or
3 temporary closure of an educational institution;
4 or

5 “(B) did not receive credit, or lost training
6 time, toward completion of the program of edu-
7 cation being pursued at the time of such clo-
8 sure.

9 “(3) PERIOD FOR WHICH PAYMENT NOT
10 CHARGED.—The period for which, by reason of this
11 subsection, educational assistance is not charged
12 against entitlement or counted toward the applicable
13 aggregate period under section 3695 of this title
14 shall not exceed the aggregate period permitted
15 under such section.”.

16 (2) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (d) of such
17 section, as added by paragraph (1), shall apply with
18 respect to courses and programs of education discon-
19 tinued as described in paragraph (2) of such sub-
20 section after August 1, 2016.

21 **SEC. 3. REDUCTION IN FEES TO MATCH PELL GRANT FEES.**

22 During the 10-year period beginning on January 1,
23 2017, the second sentence of subsection (c) of section
24 3684 of title 38, United States Code, shall be applied—

25 (1) by substituting “\$5” for “\$12”; and

1 (2) by substituting “\$5” for “\$15”.

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