

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1557

To amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to extend the interest rate limitation on debt entered into during military service to debt incurred during military service to consolidate or refinance student loans incurred before military service, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 11, 2015

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to extend the interest rate limitation on debt entered into during military service to debt incurred during military service to consolidate or refinance student loans incurred before military service, 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 “Servicemember Stu-
5 dent Loan Affordability Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. INTEREST RATE LIMITATION ON DEBT ENTERED**
2 **INTO DURING MILITARY SERVICE TO CON-**
3 **SOLIDATE OR REFINANCE STUDENT LOANS**
4 **INCURRED BEFORE MILITARY SERVICE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 207 of
6 the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 527)
7 is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “ON DEBT
9 INCURRED BEFORE SERVICE” after “LIMITATION TO
10 6 PERCENT”;

11 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as
12 paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively;

13 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
14 lowing new paragraph (2):

15 “(2) LIMITATION TO 6 PERCENT ON DEBT IN-
16 CURRED DURING SERVICE TO CONSOLIDATE OR RE-
17 FINANCE STUDENT LOANS INCURRED BEFORE SERV-
18 ICE.—An obligation or liability bearing interest at a
19 rate in excess of 6 percent per year that is incurred
20 by a servicemember, or the servicemember and the
21 servicemember’s spouse jointly, during military serv-
22 ice to consolidate or refinance one or more student
23 loans incurred by the servicemember before such
24 military service shall not bear an interest at a rate
25 in excess of 6 percent during the period of military
26 service.”;

1 (4) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by para-
 2 graph (2) of this subsection, by inserting “or (2)”
 3 after “paragraph (1)”; and

4 (5) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated, by
 5 striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraph
 6 (3)”.

7 (b) IMPLEMENTATION OF LIMITATION.—Subsection
 8 (b) of such section is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “the interest
 10 rate limitation in subsection (a)” and inserting “an
 11 interest rate limitation in paragraph (1) or (2) of
 12 subsection (a)”; and

13 (2) in paragraph (2)—

14 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking
 15 “AS OF DATE OF ORDER TO ACTIVE DUTY”; and

16 (B) by inserting before the period at the
 17 end the following: “in the case of an obligation
 18 or liability covered by subsection (a)(1), or as of
 19 the date the servicemember (or servicemember
 20 and spouse jointly) incurs the obligation or li-
 21 ability concerned under subsection (a)(2)”.

22 (c) STUDENT LOAN DEFINED.—Subsection (d) of
 23 such section is amended by adding at the end the following
 24 new paragraph:

1 “(3) STUDENT LOAN.—The term ‘student loan’
2 means the following:

3 “(A) A Federal student loan made, in-
4 sured, or guaranteed under title IV of the
5 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070
6 et seq.).

7 “(B) A private student loan as that term
8 is defined in section 140(a) of the Truth in
9 Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1650(a)).”.

○