

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3318

To authorize the use of veterans educational assistance for examinations to receive credit toward degrees awarded by institutions of higher learning, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 1, 2018

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mrs. ERNST) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the use of veterans educational assistance for examinations to receive credit toward degrees awarded by institutions of higher learning, 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 “Military Learning for
5 Credit Act of 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY FOR USE OF VETERANS EDUCATIONAL**
2 **ASSISTANCE FOR EXAMINATIONS TO RE-**
3 **CEIVE CREDIT TOWARD DEGREES AWARDED**
4 **BY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—An individual who is entitled to
6 veterans educational assistance may use such assistance
7 to cover the costs of examinations to receive credit toward
8 degrees awarded by institutions of higher learning for ap-
9 proved programs of education.

10 (b) VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—For
11 purposes of this section, veterans educational assistance
12 is educational assistance available to veterans and other
13 eligible individuals under the provisions of law as follows:

14 (1) Chapters 30, 32, 33, 34, and 35 of title 38,
15 United States Code.

16 (2) Any other provision of law providing edu-
17 cational assistance to a veteran, or to another indi-
18 vidual in connection with the service of a veteran in
19 the Armed Forces.

20 (c) EXAMINATIONS.—The examinations for which
21 veterans educational assistance may be used pursuant to
22 this section include the following:

23 (1) A DANTES Subject Standardized Test
24 Program (DSST) examination.

25 (2) A College Level Examination Program
26 (CLEP) examination.

1 (3) The National Career Readiness Certificate
2 examination.

3 (4) Any other examination of a similar nature
4 to an exam specified in paragraph (1), (2), or (3)
5 specified by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for
6 purposes of this section.

7 (5) Exams that require students to develop
8 portfolios or written narratives with supporting doc-
9 umentation that demonstrate prior military training
10 or learning.

11 (d) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT USABLE.—The total
12 amount of veterans educational assistance that may be
13 used for costs of an examination under subsection (a) may
14 not exceed the lesser of—

15 (1) the amount charged for the examination by
16 the entity administering the examination; or

17 (2) \$500.

18 (e) CHARGE AGAINST ENTITLEMENT.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The number of months (or
20 fraction thereof) of entitlement charged an indi-
21 vidual under the applicable provision of law specified
22 in subsection (b) for use of veterans educational as-
23 sistance for costs of an examination under this sec-
24 tion shall be equal to the quotient obtained by divid-
25 ing—

1 (A) the cost of the examination (as deter-
 2 mined pursuant to subsection (d)); by

3 (B) the monthly rate of veterans edu-
 4 cational assistance to which the individual is en-
 5 titled under such provision of law at the time
 6 of the examination.

7 (2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—A charge
 8 against entitlement to educational assistance under
 9 a law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Af-
 10 fairs in order to receive assistance under this section
 11 shall not be construed to affect entitlement to edu-
 12 cational assistance under a law administered by the
 13 Secretary of Defense, including entitlement to edu-
 14 cational assistance under the Department of Defense
 15 Tuition Assistance Program.

16 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) APPROVED PROGRAM OF EDUCATION.—The
 18 term “approved program of education” means a pro-
 19 gram of education approved for use of veterans edu-
 20 cational assistance pursuant to chapter 35 or 36 of
 21 title 38, United States Code, or another applicable
 22 provision of law.

23 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING.—The
 24 term “institution of higher learning” has the mean-

- 1 ing given such term in section 3452(f) of title 38,
- 2 United States Code.

