

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8889

To amend title 38, United States Code, to extend to Black veterans of World War II, and surviving spouses and certain direct descendants of such veterans, eligibility for certain housing loans and educational assistance administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 7, 2020

Mr. MOULTON (for himself and Mr. CLYBURN) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to extend to Black veterans of World War II, and surviving spouses and certain direct descendants of such veterans, eligibility for certain housing loans and educational assistance administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, 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 “Sgt. Isaac Woodard,
5 Jr. and Sgt. Joseph H. Maddox GI Bill Repair Act of
6 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. HOUSING LOANS GUARANTEED BY THE SECRETARY**
2 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR BLACK VET-**
3 **ERANS OF WORLD WAR II AND SURVIVORS**
4 **AND CERTAIN DIRECT DESCENDANTS OF**
5 **SUCH VETERANS.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Chapter 37 of title 38,
7 United States Code, is amended as follows:

8 (1) DEFINITION.—Section 3701(b) of such title
9 is amended by adding at the end the following new
10 paragraphs:

11 “(7) The term ‘veteran’ also includes, for pur-
12 poses of housing loans, a former member of the
13 Armed Forces who—

14 “(A) is Black; and

15 “(B) served on active duty at any time
16 during World War II.

17 “(8) The term ‘veteran’ also includes, for pur-
18 poses of housing loans, an individual who—

19 “(A) is the surviving spouse, child, grand-
20 child, or other direct descendant of a veteran
21 described in paragraph (7); and

22 “(B) is living on the date of the enactment
23 of the Sgt. Isaac Woodard, Jr. and Sgt. Joseph
24 H. Maddox GI Bill Repair Act of 2020.”.

25 (2) BASIC ENTITLEMENT.—Section
26 3702(a)(2)(E) of such title is amended by striking

1 “section 3701(b)(5)” and inserting “paragraph (5),
2 (7), or (8) of section 3701(b)”.

3 (b) DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall carry out the
4 amendment made by this section not later than 90 days
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

6 (c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
7 fairs shall prescribe regulations to carry out the amend-
8 ment made by this section.

9 (d) GAO REPORT.—Not later than one year after the
10 deadline under subsection (b), the Comptroller General of
11 the United States shall submit to Congress a report re-
12 garding—

13 (1) the number of individuals who received
14 housing loan benefits pursuant to the amendment
15 made by this section; and

16 (2) the total value of housing loan benefits ad-
17 ministered by the Secretary pursuant to the amend-
18 ment made by this section.

19 **SEC. 3. EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR SURVIVORS AND**
20 **CERTAIN DIRECT DESCENDANTS OF BLACK**
21 **VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subsection (b) of section
23 3311 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by add-
24 ing at the end the following new paragraph:

1 “(11) An individual described in section
2 3701(b)(8) of this title.”.

3 (b) DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall carry out the
4 amendment made by this section not later than 90 days
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

6 (c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
7 fairs shall prescribe regulations to carry out the amend-
8 ment made by this section.

9 (d) GAO REPORT.—Not later than one year after the
10 deadline under subsection (b), the Comptroller General of
11 the United States shall submit to Congress a report re-
12 garding—

13 (1) the number of individuals who received edu-
14 cational assistance pursuant to the amendment
15 made by this section; and

16 (2) the total amount of educational assistance
17 paid by the Secretary pursuant to the amendment
18 made by this section.

19 **SEC. 4. BLUE RIBBON PANEL ON BENEFITS AND ASSIST-**
20 **ANCE FOR FEMALE AND MINORITY VET-**
21 **ERANS.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 30 days after
23 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
24 Veterans Affairs shall establish a panel of independent ex-
25 perts on—

1 (1) inequities in the distribution of benefits and
2 assistance administered by the Secretary; and

3 (2) military service by female and minority
4 members of the Armed Forces.

5 (b) DUTIES.—The panel shall develop recommenda-
6 tions regarding additional benefits and assistance for indi-
7 viduals described in subsection (a)(2), and related legisla-
8 tion.

9 (c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
10 of the enactment of this Act, the panel shall submit to
11 Congress and the President a report containing the rec-
12 ommendations developed under this section.

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