

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3993

To amend title 38, United States Code, and title 10, United States Code, to eliminate those provisions relating to veterans educational assistance that disadvantage eligible individuals who choose to pursue programs of apprenticeship or other on-job training instead of a four-year college degree, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 4, 2026

Mr. SHEEHY (for himself, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. GALLEG0) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, and title 10, United States Code, to eliminate those provisions relating to veterans educational assistance that disadvantage eligible individuals who choose to pursue programs of apprenticeship or other on-job training instead of a four-year college degree, 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 “Reducing Arbitrary
5 Barriers to Apprenticeship Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. ELIMINATING PROVISIONS RELATING TO VET-**
2 **ERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE THAT DIS-**
3 **ADVANTAGE ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WHO**
4 **CHOOSE TO PURSUE PROGRAMS OF APPREN-**
5 **TICESHIP OR OTHER ON-JOB TRAINING.**

6 (a) **POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—**

7 (1) **ENSURING THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE**
8 **FOR FULL-TIME PROGRAM OF APPRENTICESHIP OR**
9 **OTHER ON-JOB TRAINING DOES NOT DETER INDI-**
10 **VIDUALS INTERESTED IN SUCH PROGRAMS AND**
11 **TRAINING.—**Clause (i) of section 3313(g)(3)(B) of
12 title 38, Unites States Code, is amended by striking
13 “a monthly housing stipend equal to—” and all that
14 follows through the period at the end and inserting
15 the following: “a monthly housing stipend equal to
16 the monthly amount of the basic allowance for hous-
17 ing payable under section 403 of title 37 for a mem-
18 ber with dependents in pay grade E–5 residing in
19 the military housing area that encompasses all or
20 the majority portion of the ZIP Code area in which
21 is located the employer at which the individual pur-
22 sues such program.”.

23 (2) **WAIVER OF MINIMUM ATTENDANCE RE-**
24 **QUIREMENT FOR RECEIPT OF ASSISTANCE FOR PRO-**
25 **GRAMS OF APPRENTICESHIP AND OTHER ON-JOB**

1 TRAINING IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.—Clause
2 (iv) of such section is amended—

3 (A) by striking “In any month” and insert-
4 ing “(I) Except as provided in subclause (II), in
5 any month”; and

6 (B) by adding at the end the following new
7 subclause:

8 “(II) Subclause (I) shall not apply to
9 an individual pursuing a program of ap-
10 prenticeship or other on-job training for an
11 occupation that performs work classified in
12 Sector 23 of the most recent publication of
13 the North American Industry Classification
14 System.”.

15 (b) ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCE EDUCATIONAL ASSIST-
16 ANCE PROGRAM.—

17 (1) ENSURING THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE
18 FOR FULL-TIME PROGRAM OF APPRENTICESHIP OR
19 OTHER ON-JOB TRAINING DOES NOT DETER INDI-
20 VIDUALS INTERESTED IN SUCH PROGRAMS AND
21 TRAINING.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of sec-
23 tion 3032(c) of such title is amended by strik-
24 ing “this chapter is—” and all that follows
25 through the period at the end and inserting the

1 following: “this chapter is 100 percent of the
2 monthly educational assistance allowance other-
3 wise payable to such individual under this chap-
4 ter.”.

5 (B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Para-
6 graph (3) of such section is amended by strik-
7 ing “at the rate of—” and all that follows
8 through the period at the end and inserting the
9 following: “at the rate of 100 percent of a
10 month.”.

11 (2) WAIVER OF MINIMUM ATTENDANCE RE-
12 QUIREMENT FOR RECEIPT OF ASSISTANCE FOR PRO-
13 GRAMS OF APPRENTICESHIP AND OTHER ON-JOB
14 TRAINING IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.—Paragraph
15 (2) of such section is amended—

16 (A) by striking “In any month” and insert-
17 ing “(A) Except as provided in subparagraph
18 (B), in any month”; and

19 (B) by adding at the end the following new
20 subclause:

21 “(B) Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to an indi-
22 vidual pursuing a program of apprenticeship or other on-
23 job training for an occupation that performs work classi-
24 fied in Sector 23 of the most recent publication of the
25 North American Industry Classification System.”.

1 (c) EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR MEMBERS OF
2 THE SELECTED RESERVE.—

3 (1) ENSURING THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE
4 FOR FULL-TIME PROGRAM OF APPRENTICESHIP OR
5 OTHER ON-JOB TRAINING DOES NOT DETER INDI-
6 VIDUALS INTERESTED IN SUCH PROGRAMS AND
7 TRAINING.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of sec-
9 tion 16131(d) of title 10, United States Code,
10 is amended by striking “this chapter is—” and
11 all that follows through the period at the end
12 and inserting the following: “this chapter is 100
13 percent of the monthly educational assistance
14 allowance otherwise payable to such person
15 under this chapter.”.

16 (B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Para-
17 graph (3) of such section is amended by strik-
18 ing “at the rate of—” and all that follows
19 through the period at the end and inserting the
20 following: “at the rate of 100 percent of a
21 month.”.

22 (2) WAIVER OF MINIMUM ATTENDANCE RE-
23 QUIREMENT FOR RECEIPT OF ASSISTANCE FOR PRO-
24 GRAMS OF APPRENTICESHIP AND OTHER ON-JOB

1 TRAINING IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.—Paragraph
2 (2) of such section is amended—

3 (A) by striking “In any month” and insert-
4 ing “(A) Except as provided in subparagraph
5 (B), in any month”; and

6 (B) by adding at the end the following new
7 subclause:

8 “(B) Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to an indi-
9 vidual pursuing a program of apprenticeship or other on-
10 job training for an occupation that performs work classi-
11 fied in Sector 23 of the most recent publication of the
12 North American Industry Classification System.”.

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