

(2) the educational institution or training establishment certifies to the Secretary that such program or training is truncated, delayed, relocated, canceled, partially canceled, converted from being on-site to being offered by distance learning, or otherwise modified or made unavailable by reason of the emergency situation; and

(3) the Secretary determines that the modification to such program or training specified under paragraph (2) would reduce the amount of educational assistance (including with respect to monthly housing stipends, payments, or subsistence allowances) that would be payable to the individual but for the emergency situation.

(d) EFFECT ON ENTITLEMENT PERIOD.—If the Secretary determines that an individual who received assistance under this section did not make progress toward the completion of the program of education in which the individual is enrolled during the period for which the individual received such assistance, any assistance provided pursuant to this section shall not be counted for purposes of determining the total amount of an individual's entitlement to educational assistance, housing stipends, or payments or subsistence allowances under chapters 30, 31, 32, and 35 of this title and chapter 1606 of title 10.

(Added Pub. L. 117-333, §2(a)(2), Jan. 5, 2023, 136 Stat. 6122.)

§ 3603. Continuation of educational assistance benefits for certain programs of education converted to distance learning by reason of emergency situations

In the case of a program of education approved by a State approving agency, or the Secretary when acting in the role of a State approving agency, that is converted from being offered on-site at an educational institution or training establishment to being offered by distance learning by reason of an emergency or health-related situation, as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary may continue to provide educational assistance under the laws administered by the Secretary without regard to such conversion, including with respect to paying any—

(1) monthly housing stipends under chapter 33 of this title; or

(2) payments or subsistence allowances under chapters 30, 31, 32, and 35 of this title and chapter 1606 of title 10.

(Added Pub. L. 117-333, §2(a)(2), Jan. 5, 2023, 136 Stat. 6123.)

§ 3604. Effects of closure of educational institution and modification of courses by reason of emergency situation

(a) CLOSURE OR DISAPPROVAL.—Any payment of educational assistance described in subsection (b) shall not—

(1) be charged against any entitlement to educational assistance of the individual concerned; or

(2) be counted against the aggregate period for which section 3695 of this title limits the receipt of educational assistance by such individual.

(b) EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE DESCRIBED.—Subject to subsection (d), the payment of educational assistance described in this subsection is the payment of such assistance to an individual for pursuit of a course or program of education at an educational institution under chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, or 35 of this title or chapter 1606 of title 10, if the Secretary determines that the individual—

(1) was unable to complete such course or program as a result of—

(A) the closure of the educational institution, or the full or partial cancellation of a course or program of education, by reason of an emergency situation; or

(B) the disapproval of the course or a course that is a necessary part of that program under this chapter because the course was modified by reason of such emergency; and

(2) did not receive credit or lost training time, toward completion of the program of education being so pursued.

(c) HOUSING ASSISTANCE.—In this section, educational assistance includes, as applicable—

(1) monthly housing stipends payable under chapter 33 of this title for any month the individual would have been enrolled in a course or program of education; and

(2) payments or subsistence allowances under chapters 30, 31, 32, and 35 of this title and chapter 1606 of title 10 during a month the individual would have been enrolled in a course or program of education.

(d) PERIOD NOT CHARGED.—The period for which, by reason of this section, educational assistance is not charged against entitlement or counted toward the applicable aggregate period under section 3695 of this title shall not exceed the aggregate of—

(1) the portion of the period of enrollment in the course from which the individual did not receive credit or with respect to which the individual lost training time, as determined under subsection (b)(2); and

(2) the period by which a monthly stipend is extended under section 3680(a)(2)(B) of this title.

(e) CONTINUING PURSUIT OF DISAPPROVED COURSES.—(1) The Secretary may treat a course of education that is disapproved under this chapter as being approved under this chapter with respect to an individual described in paragraph (2) if the Secretary determines, on a programmatic basis, that—

(A) such disapproval is the result of an action described in subsection (b)(1)(B); and

(B) continuing pursuing such course is in the best interest of the individual.

(2) An individual described in this paragraph is an individual who is pursuing a course of education at an educational institution under chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, or 35 of this title or chapter 1606 of title 10, as of the date on which the course is disapproved as described in subsection (b)(1)(B).

(f) STATUS AS FULL-TIME STUDENT FOR PURPOSES OF HOUSING STIPEND CALCULATION.—In the case of an individual who, as of the first day of an emergency situation was enrolled on a full-

time basis in a program of education and was receiving educational assistance under chapter 33 of this title or subsistence allowance under chapter 31 of this title, and for whom the Secretary makes a determination under subsection (b), the individual shall be treated as an individual enrolled in a program of education on a full-time basis for the purpose of calculating monthly housing stipends payable under chapter 33 of this title, or subsistence allowance payable under chapter 31 of this title, for any month the individual is enrolled in the program of education on a part-time basis to complete any course of education that was partially or fully canceled by reason of the emergency situation.

(g) NOTICE OF CLOSURES.—Not later than five business days after the date on which the Secretary receives notice that an educational institution will close or is closed by reason of an emergency situation, the Secretary shall provide to each individual who is enrolled in a course or program of education at such educational institution using entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, or 35 of this title, or chapter 1606 of title 10 notice of—

- (1) such closure and the date of such closure; and
- (2) the effect of such closure on the individual's entitlement to educational assistance pursuant to this section.

(Added Pub. L. 117-333, §2(a)(2), Jan. 5, 2023, 136 Stat. 6123.)

§ 3605. Payment of educational assistance in cases of withdrawal

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any individual who withdraws from a program of education or training, other than a program by correspondence, in an educational institution under chapter 31, 34, or 35 of this title for a covered reason during the period of an emergency situation, the Secretary shall find mitigating circumstances for purposes of section 3680(a)(1)(C)(ii) of this title.

(b) COVERED REASON.—In this section, the term “covered reason” means any reason related to an emergency situation, including—

- (1) illness, quarantine, or social distancing requirements;
- (2) issues associated with accessibility;
- (3) access or availability of childcare;
- (4) providing care for a family member or cohabitants;
- (5) change of location or residence due to the emergency situation or associated school closures;
- (6) employment changes or financial hardship; and
- (7) issues associated with changes in format or medium of instruction.

(Added Pub. L. 117-333, §2(a)(2), Jan. 5, 2023, 136 Stat. 6125.)

SUBCHAPTER II—STATE APPROVING AGENCIES

Editorial Notes

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior subchapter II of this chapter was redesignated as subchapter III of this chapter by Pub. L. 117-333, §2(a)(1), Jan. 5, 2023, 136 Stat. 6122.

AMENDMENTS

2023—Pub. L. 117-333, §2(a)(1), Jan. 5, 2023, 136 Stat. 6122, redesignated subchapter I of this chapter as this subchapter.

§ 3670. Scope of approval

(a) A course approved under and for the purposes of this chapter shall be deemed approved for the purposes of chapters 34 and 35 of this title.

(b) Any course approved under chapter 33 of this title, prior to February 1, 1965, under subchapter VII of chapter 35 of this title, prior to March 3, 1966, and not disapproved under section 3483, section 1656 (as in effect prior to February 1, 1965), or section 3679 of this title, shall be deemed approved for the purposes of this chapter.

(Added Pub. L. 89-358, §3(a)(5), Mar. 3, 1966, 80 Stat. 20, §1770; amended Pub. L. 92-540, title IV, §403(1), Oct. 24, 1972, 86 Stat. 1090; Pub. L. 97-295, §4(49), Oct. 12, 1982, 96 Stat. 1308; renumbered §3670 and amended Pub. L. 102-83, §5(a), (c)(1), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 406.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Chapter 33 of this title, prior to February 1, 1965, referred to in subsec. (b), means Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1174 to 1192, which was classified to sections 1601, 1610 to 1613, 1620 to 1626, 1631 to 1634, 1641 to 1645, 1651 to 1656, and 1661 to 1669 of this title, and was repealed by section 4(a) of Pub. L. 89-358.

Subchapter VII of chapter 35 of this title, prior to March 3, 1966, referred to in subsec. (b), means Pub. L. 88-126, §1, Sept. 23, 1963, 77 Stat. 158 to 162, which was classified to sections 1771 to 1778 of this title, and was redesignated as subchapter I of this chapter by section 3(a)(4) of Pub. L. 89-358.

Section 1656 of this title, as in effect prior to February 1, 1965, referred to in subsec. (b), is Pub. L. 85-857, §1656, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1189, which was repealed by section 4(a) of Pub. L. 89-358, and is covered by section 3679 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-83, §5(a), renumbered section 1770 of this title as this section.

Subsec. (b), Pub. L. 102-83, §5(c)(1), substituted “3483” for “1683” and “3679” for “1779”.

1982—Subsec. (b), Pub. L. 97-295 substituted “March 3, 1966” and “section 1779” for “the date of enactment of this chapter” and “section 1778”, respectively.

1972—Subsec. (b), Pub. L. 92-540 substituted “1683” for “1686”.

§ 3671. Designation

(a) Unless otherwise established by the law of the State concerned, the chief executive of each State is requested to create or designate a State department or agency as the “State approving agency” for such State for the purposes of this chapter and chapters 34 and 35 of this title.

(b)(1) If any State fails or declines to create or designate a State approving agency, or fails to enter into an agreement under section 3674(a), the provisions of this chapter which refer to the State approving agency shall, with respect to such State, be deemed to refer to the Secretary.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, in the case of courses subject to approval by the Secretary under section 3672 of this title, the