

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 643

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into a contract with a non-government entity to conduct a survey of individuals who have used or are using their entitlement to educational assistance under the educational assistance programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 2015

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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into a contract with a non-government entity to conduct a survey of individuals who have used or are using their entitlement to educational assistance under the educational assistance programs 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 “Veterans Education
5 Survey Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. SURVEY OF INDIVIDUALS USING THEIR ENTITLE-**
2 **MENT TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE UNDER**
3 **THE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**
4 **ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY OF VET-**
5 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) SURVEY REQUIRED.—By not later than 180 days
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
8 of Veterans Affairs shall enter into a contract with a non-
9 government entity for the conduct of a survey of a statis-
10 tically valid sample of individuals who have used or are
11 using their entitlement to educational assistance under
12 chapters 30, 32, 33, and 35 of title 38, United States
13 Code, to pursue a program of education or training. The
14 contract shall provide that—

15 (1) not later than one month before the collec-
16 tion of data under the survey begins, the survey
17 shall be submitted to the Committees on Veterans’
18 Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives;

19 (2) the non-government entity shall complete
20 the survey and submit to the Secretary the results
21 of the survey by not later than 180 days after enter-
22 ing into the contract; and

23 (3) the survey shall be conducted by electronic
24 means and by any other means the non-government
25 entity determines appropriate.

1 (b) INFORMATION TO BE COLLECTED.—The con-
2 tract under subsection (a) shall provide that the survey
3 shall be designed to collect the following types of informa-
4 tion about each individual surveyed, where applicable:

5 (1) Demographic information, including the
6 highest level of education completed by the indi-
7 vidual, the military occupational specialty or special-
8 ties of the individual while serving on active duty as
9 a member of the Armed Forces or as a member of
10 the National Guard or of a Reserve Component of
11 the Armed Forces, and whether the individual has a
12 service-connected disability.

13 (2) The opinion of the individual regarding par-
14 ticipation in the transition assistance program under
15 section 1144 of title 10, United States Code, and
16 the effectiveness of the program, including instruc-
17 tion on the use of the benefits under laws adminis-
18 tered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

19 (3) The resources the individual used to help
20 the individual—

21 (A) decide to use the individual's entitle-
22 ment to educational assistance to enroll in a
23 program of education or training; and

24 (B) choose the program of education or
25 training the individual pursued.

1 (4) The individual's goal when the individual
2 enrolled in the program of education or training.

3 (5) The nature of the individual's experience
4 with the education benefits processing system of the
5 Department of Veterans Affairs.

6 (6) The nature of the individual's experience
7 with the school certifying official of the educational
8 institution where the individual pursued the program
9 of education or training who processed the individ-
10 ual's claim.

11 (7) Any services or benefits the educational in-
12 stitution or program of education or training pro-
13 vided to veterans while the individual pursued the
14 program of education or training.

15 (8) The type of educational institution at which
16 the individual pursued the program of education or
17 training.

18 (9) Whether the individual completed the pro-
19 gram of education or training or the number of cred-
20 it hours completed by the individual as of the time
21 of the survey, and, if applicable, any degree or cer-
22 tificate obtained by the individual for completing the
23 program.

24 (10) The employment status of the individual
25 and whether such employment status differs from

1 the employment status of the individual prior to en-
2 rolling in the program of education or training.

3 (11) Whether the individual is or was enrolled
4 in a program of education on a full-time or part-
5 time basis.

6 (12) The opinion of the individual on the effec-
7 tiveness of the educational assistance program of the
8 Department of Veterans Affairs under which the in-
9 dividual was entitled to educational assistance.

10 (13) Whether the individual was ever entitled to
11 a rehabilitation under chapter 31 of title 38, United
12 States Code, and whether the individual participated
13 in such a program.

14 (14) A description of any circumstances that
15 prevented the individual from using the individual's
16 entitlement to educational assistance to pursue a de-
17 sired career path or degree.

18 (15) Whether the individual is using the indi-
19 vidual's entitlement to educational assistance to pur-
20 sue a program of education or training or has trans-
21 ferred such an entitlement to a dependent.

22 (16) Such other matters as the Secretary deter-
23 mines appropriate.

24 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after receiving
25 the results of the survey required under this section, the

1 Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Af-
2 fairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report
3 on the results of the survey and any recommendations of
4 the Secretary relating to such results. Such report shall
5 also include an unedited version of the results of the sur-
6 vey submitted by the non-government entity that con-
7 ducted the study.

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