

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8661

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to educational assistance, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 7, 2024

Mr. JAMES introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to educational assistance, 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 “Reforming Education
5 for Veterans Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ABSENCE FROM CERTAIN EDUCATION DUE TO CER-**
2 **TAIN SERVICE.**

3 (a) **OPTIONS.**—Section 3691A of title 38, United
4 States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (1) of sub-
5 section (a) and inserting the following:

6 “(1) A covered member may, after receiving orders
7 to enter a period of covered service—

8 “(A) withdraw from covered education;

9 “(B) take a leave of absence from covered edu-
10 cation; or

11 “(C) subject to subsection (d), enter into an
12 agreement with the institution concerned to complete
13 a course of covered education to the satisfaction of
14 such institution concerned.”.

15 (b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Such subsection is
16 further amended, in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “or
17 takes a leave of absence” and inserting “, takes a leave
18 of absence, or enters into an agreement”.

19 (c) **AGREEMENT.**—Such section is further amended
20 by—

21 (1) redesignating subsection (d) as subsection
22 (e); and

23 (2) by inserting, after subsection (c), the fol-
24 lowing new subsection (d):

25 “(d) **AGREEMENT WITH INSTITUTION CON-**
26 **CERNED.**—A covered member may enter into an agree-

1 ment under subsection (a) only if the covered member has
2 completed at least half of a course of covered education.”.

3 (d) SECTION HEADING.—Such section is amended by
4 striking the heading and inserting “**Absence from cer-**
5 **tain education due to certain service**”.

6 (e) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections at
7 the beginning of chapter 36 of such title is amended by
8 striking the item relating to section 3691A and inserting
9 the following new item:

“3691A. Absence from certain education due to certain service.”.

10 **SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMPLIANCE**
11 **SURVEYS.**

12 Section 3693 of title 38, United States Code, is
13 amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
15 following new paragraph:

16 “(3) In conducting annual compliance surveys under
17 this subsection, the Secretary shall ensure that any edu-
18 cational institution or training establishment with multiple
19 campuses is only required to complete one such survey.”;
20 and

21 (2) in subsection (c)—

22 (A) by striking “not more than 10 busi-
23 ness days of notice”;

24 (B) by striking “this section.” and insert-
25 ing “this section—”; and

1 (C) by adding at the end the following new
2 paragraphs:

3 “(1) in the case of an educational institution or
4 training establishment with a time stamp database
5 collection feature, not more than 15 business days of
6 notice; and

7 “(2) in the case of any other educational insti-
8 tution or training establishment, not more than 10
9 business days of notice.”.

10 **SEC. 4. NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL CERTIFYING OFFICIALS**
11 **OF HANDBOOK UPDATES.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 14 business days
13 after updating the school certifying official handbook of
14 the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Vet-
15 erans Affairs shall provide notice to all school certifying
16 officials of such update.

17 (b) SCHOOL CERTIFYING OFFICIAL DEFINED.—The
18 term “school certifying official” means an employee of an
19 educational institution with primary responsibility for cer-
20 tifying veteran enrollment at the educational institution.

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