



(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3218

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. ROE of Tennessee (for himself and Mr. WALZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act
6 of 2017”.

- 1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
2 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- Sec. 101. Consideration of certain time spent receiving medical care from Secretary of Defense as active duty for purposes of eligibility for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance.
- Sec. 102. Consolidation of certain eligibility tiers under Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 103. Educational assistance under Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program for members of the Armed Forces awarded the Purple Heart.
- Sec. 104. Eligibility for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance for certain members of reserve components of Armed Forces who lost entitlement to educational assistance under Reserve Educational Assistance Program.
- Sec. 105. Calculation of monthly housing stipend under Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program based on location of campus where classes are attended.
- Sec. 106. Charge to entitlement for certain licensure and certification tests and national tests under Department of Veterans Affairs Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program.
- Sec. 107. Restoration of entitlement to educational assistance and other relief for veterans affected by school closure or disapproval.
- Sec. 108. Inclusion of Fry Scholarship recipients in Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program.
- Sec. 109. Additional authorized transfer of unused Post-9/11 Educational Assistance benefits to dependents upon death of originally designated dependent.
- Sec. 110. Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship.
- Sec. 111. Honoring the national service of members of the Armed Forces by elimination of time limitation for use of entitlement.
- Sec. 112. Monthly stipend for certain members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces receiving Post-9/11 Educational Assistance.
- Sec. 113. Improvement of information technology of the veterans benefits administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 114. Department of Veterans Affairs high technology pilot program.

TITLE II—OTHER EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

- Sec. 201. Work-study allowance.
- Sec. 202. Duration of educational assistance under Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program.
- Sec. 203. Olin E. Teague increase in amounts of educational assistance payable under Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program.

TITLE III—ADMINISTRATION OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

- Sec. 301. State approving agency funding.

- Sec. 302. Authorization for use of Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to pursue independent study programs at certain educational institutions that are not institutions of higher learning.
- Sec. 303. Provision of information on priority enrollment for veterans in certain courses of education.
- Sec. 304. Limitation on use of reporting fees payable to educational institutions and sponsors of programs of apprenticeship.
- Sec. 305. Training for school certifying officials.
- Sec. 306. Extension of authority for Advisory Committee on Education.
- Sec. 307. Department of Veterans Affairs provision of on-campus educational and vocational counseling for veterans.
- Sec. 308. Provision of information regarding veteran entitlement to educational assistance.
- Sec. 309. Treatment, for purposes of educational assistance administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, of educational courses that begin seven or fewer days after the first day of an academic term.

TITLE IV—RESERVE COMPONENT BENEFITS

- Sec. 401. Eligibility of reserve component members for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance.
- Sec. 402. Time limitation for training and rehabilitation for veterans with service-connected disabilities.

TITLE V—OTHER MATTERS

- Sec. 501. Repeal inapplicability of modification of basic allowance for housing to benefits under laws administered by Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

1 **TITLE I—POST-9/11** **EDU-** 2 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE PRO-** 3 **GRAM**

4 **SEC. 101. CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN TIME SPENT RE-** 5 **CEIVING MEDICAL CARE FROM SECRETARY** 6 **OF DEFENSE AS ACTIVE DUTY FOR PUR-** 7 **POSES OF ELIGIBILITY FOR POST-9/11 EDU-** 8 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3301(1)(B) of title 38,
10 United States Code, is amended by inserting “12301(h),”
11 after “12301(g),”.

1 (b) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.—The amendment
2 made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to service
3 in the Armed Forces occurring on or after September 11,
4 2001.

5 (c) APPLICATION WITH RESPECT TO USE OF ENTI-
6 TLEMENT.—An individual who is entitled to educational
7 assistance by reason of the amendment made by sub-
8 section (a) may use such entitlement to pursue a course
9 of education beginning on or after August 1, 2018.

10 **SEC. 102. CONSOLIDATION OF CERTAIN ELIGIBILITY TIERS**
11 **UNDER POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**
12 **PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
13 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

14 (a) ENTITLEMENT.—Section 3311(b) of title 38,
15 United States Code, is amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (6)(A), by striking “12
17 months” and inserting “6 months”;

18 (2) by striking paragraph (7); and

19 (3) by redesignating paragraphs (8) and (9) as
20 paragraphs (7) and (8), respectively.

21 (b) AMOUNT OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Sec-
22 tion 3313(c) of such title is amended by striking para-
23 graph (7).

1 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Sections 3311,
2 3313, 3316, 3322, and 3679 of such title are further
3 amended—

4 (1) in section 3311(f), by striking “paragraph
5 (9)” each place it appears and inserting “paragraph
6 (8)”;

7 (2) in section 3313—

8 (A) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “(9)”
9 and inserting “(8)”;

10 (B) in subsection (d), by striking “para-
11 graphs (2) through (7)” each place it appears
12 and inserting “paragraphs (2) through (6)”;

13 (C) in subsection (e)(2)(C)—

14 (i) by striking “paragraphs (3)
15 through (8)” and inserting “paragraphs
16 (3) through (7)”;

17 (ii) by striking “paragraphs (2)
18 through (7)” and inserting “paragraphs
19 (2) through (6)”;

20 (D) in subsection (f)(2)(A)(ii), by striking
21 “paragraphs (2) through (7)” and inserting
22 “paragraphs (2) through (6)”;

23 (E) in subsection (g)(3)—

24 (i) in subparagraph (A)(iv)—

1 (I) by striking “paragraphs (3)
2 through (8)” and inserting “para-
3 graphs (3) through (7)”; and

4 (II) by striking “paragraphs (2)
5 through (7)” and inserting “para-
6 graphs (2) through (6)”; and

7 (ii) in subparagraph (B)(iii)—

8 (I) by striking “paragraphs (3)
9 through (8)” and inserting “para-
10 graphs (3) through (7)”; and

11 (II) by striking “paragraphs (2)
12 through (7)” and inserting “para-
13 graphs (2) through (6)”; and

14 (iii) in subparagraph (C)(ii)—

15 (I) in subclause (I), by striking
16 “(9)” and inserting “(8)”; and

17 (II) in subclause (II)—

18 (aa) by striking “paragraphs
19 (3) through (8)” and inserting
20 “paragraphs (3) through (7)”;
21 and

22 (bb) by striking “paragraphs
23 (2) through (7)” and inserting
24 “paragraphs (2) through (6)”;
25 and

- 1 (iv) in subparagraph (D)(ii)—
2 (I) in subclause (I), by striking
3 “(9)” and inserting “(8)”; and
4 (II) in subclause (II)—
5 (aa) by striking “paragraphs
6 (3) through (8)” and inserting
7 “paragraphs (3) through (7);
8 and
9 (bb) by striking “paragraphs
10 (2) through (7)” and inserting
11 “paragraphs (2) through (6);
12 and
13 (F) in subsection (h), by striking “para-
14 graphs (2) through (7)” and inserting “para-
15 graphs (2) through (6);
16 (3) in section 3316—
17 (A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “para-
18 graphs (2) through (7)” and inserting “para-
19 graphs (2) through (6); and
20 (B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “para-
21 graphs (2) through (7)” and inserting “para-
22 graphs (2) through (6);
23 (4) in section 3321(b)(4), by striking “section
24 3311(b)(9)” and inserting “section 3311(b)(8);
25 (5) in section 3322—

1 (A) in subsection (e), by striking
2 “3311(b)(9)” and inserting “3311(b)(8)”;

3 (B) in subsection (f), by striking
4 “3311(b)(9)” and inserting “3311(b)(8)”;

5 (C) in subsection (h)(2), by striking
6 “3311(b)(9)” and inserting “3311(b)(8)”;

7 (6) in section 3679(c)(2)(B), by striking
8 “3311(b)(9)” and inserting “3311(b)(8)”.

9 (d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by
10 this section shall take effect on August 1, 2018.

11 **SEC. 103. EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE UNDER POST-9/11**
12 **EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR**
13 **MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AWARDED**
14 **THE PURPLE HEART.**

15 (a) **ELIGIBILITY.**—Section 3311(b) of title 38,
16 United States Code, as amended by section 102, is further
17 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
18 graph:

19 “(9) An individual who is awarded the Purple
20 Heart for service in the Armed Forces occurring on
21 or after September 11, 2001, and continues to serve
22 on active duty in the Armed Forces or is discharged
23 or released from active duty as described in sub-
24 section (c).”.

1 (b) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—Section 3313(c)(1) of
2 such title is further amended by striking “or (8)” and in-
3 serting “(8), or (9)”.

4 (c) YELLOW RIBBON ELIGIBILITY.—Section 3317(a)
5 of such title is amended in the second sentence by striking
6 “paragraphs (1) and (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (1),
7 (2), and (9)”.

8 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
9 this section shall take effect on August 1, 2018.

10 **SEC. 104. ELIGIBILITY FOR POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL AS-**
11 **SISTANCE FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF RE-**
12 **SERVE COMPONENTS OF ARMED FORCES**
13 **WHO LOST ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL**
14 **ASSISTANCE UNDER RESERVE EDUCATIONAL**
15 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

16 (a) ELECTION.—Section 16167 of title 10, United
17 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
18 lowing new subsection:

19 “(c) ELIGIBILITY FOR POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL AS-
20 SISTANCE.—A member who loses eligibility for benefits
21 under this chapter pursuant to subsection (b) shall be al-
22 lowed to elect (in such form and manner as the Secretary
23 of Veterans Affairs may prescribe) to have such service
24 previously credited toward this chapter credited towards
25 establishing eligibility for educational assistance under

1 chapter 33 of title 38, notwithstanding the provisions of
2 section 16163(c) of this title or section 3322(h)(1) of title
3 38.”.

4 (b) QUALIFICATION OF SERVICE.—Section 3301(1)
5 of title 38, United States Code, shall be construed to in-
6 clude, in the case of a member of a reserve component
7 of the Armed Forces who, before November 25, 2015, es-
8 tablished eligibility for educational assistance under chap-
9 ter 1607 of title 10, United States Code, pursuant to sec-
10 tion 16163(a)(1) of such title, but lost eligibility for such
11 educational assistance pursuant to section 16167(b) of
12 such title, service on active duty (as defined in section 101
13 of such title) that satisfies the requirements of section
14 16163(a)(1) of such title.

15 (c) ENTITLEMENT.—Section 3311(b)(6) of title 38,
16 United States Code, as amended by section 104(a), shall
17 be construed to include an individual who, before Novem-
18 ber 25, 2015, established eligibility for educational assist-
19 ance under chapter 1607 of title 10, United States Code,
20 pursuant to section 16163(b) of such title, but lost such
21 eligibility pursuant to section 16167(b) of such title.

22 (d) DURATION.—Notwithstanding section 3312 of
23 title 38, United States Code, an individual who establishes
24 eligibility for educational assistance under chapter 33 of
25 such title by crediting towards such chapter service pre-

1 viously credited towards chapter 1607 of title 10, United
2 States Code, is only entitled to a number of months of
3 educational assistance under section 3313 of title 38,
4 United States Code, equal to the number of months of
5 entitlement remaining under chapter 1607 of title 10,
6 United States Code, at the time of conversion to chapter
7 33 of title 38, United States Code.

8 **SEC. 105. CALCULATION OF MONTHLY HOUSING STIPEND**
9 **UNDER POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**
10 **PROGRAM BASED ON LOCATION OF CAMPUS**
11 **WHERE CLASSES ARE ATTENDED.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3313(c)(1)(B)(i)(I) of
13 title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “the
14 institution of higher learning at which the individual is
15 enrolled” and inserting “the campus of the institution of
16 higher learning where the individual physically partici-
17 pates in a majority of classes”.

18 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
19 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to initial enrollment
20 in a program of education on or after August 1, 2018.

1 **SEC. 106. CHARGE TO ENTITLEMENT FOR CERTAIN LICEN-**
2 **SURE AND CERTIFICATION TESTS AND NA-**
3 **TIONAL TESTS UNDER DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
4 **ERANS AFFAIRS POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL AS-**
5 **SISTANCE PROGRAM.**

6 (a) **LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION TESTS.**—Sub-
7 section (c) of section 3315 of title 38, United States Code,
8 is amended—

9 (1) by striking “shall be determined at the rate
10 of one month” and inserting “shall be pro-rated
11 based on the actual amount of the fee charged for
12 the test relative to the rate for one month”; and

13 (2) by striking “for each amount paid that
14 equals” and inserting “payable”.

15 (b) **NATIONAL TESTS.**—Section 3315A of such title
16 is amended—

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

19 “(3) A national test that evaluates prior learn-
20 ing and knowledge and provides an opportunity for
21 course credit at an institution of higher learning as
22 so described.”; and

23 (2) in subsection (c)—

24 (A) by striking “shall be determined at the
25 rate of one month” and inserting “shall be pro-
26 rated based on the actual amount of the fee

1 charged for the test relative to the rate for one
2 month”; and

3 (B) by striking “for each amount paid that
4 equals” and inserting “payable”.

5 (c) TESTS INCLUDED.—Section 3452(b) of such title
6 is amended in the last sentence—

7 (1) by striking “and national tests providing”
8 and inserting “, national tests providing”; and

9 (2) by inserting before the period at the end the
10 following: “, and national tests that evaluate prior
11 learning and knowledge and provides an opportunity
12 for course credit at an institution of higher learn-
13 ing”.

14 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
15 this Act shall apply to a test taken on or after August
16 1, 2018.

17 **SEC. 107. RESTORATION OF ENTITLEMENT TO EDU-**
18 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND OTHER RELIEF**
19 **FOR VETERANS AFFECTED BY SCHOOL CLO-**
20 **SURE OR DISAPPROVAL.**

21 (a) EFFECTS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 36 of title 38,
23 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
24 end the following new section:

1 **“§ 3699. Effects of closure or disapproval of edu-**
2 **cational institution**

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

6 “(1) be charged against any entitlement to edu-
7 cational assistance of the individual concerned; or

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

11 “(b) EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE DESCRIBED.—Sub-
12 ject to subsection (c), the payment of educational assist-
13 ance described in this paragraph is the payment of such
14 assistance to an individual for pursuit of a course of edu-
15 cation at an educational institution under chapters 30, 32,
16 33, or 35 of this title, or chapters 1606 or 1607 of title
17 10, if the Secretary determines that the individual—

18 “(1) was forced to discontinue the pursuit of
19 such course as a result of—

20 “(A) the permanent closure of the edu-
21 cational institution; or

22 “(B) the disapproval of such course under
23 this chapter by reason of—

24 “(i) a provision of law enacted after
25 the date on which the individual enrolls at
26 such institution affecting the approval or

1 disapproval of courses under this chapter;

2 or

3 “(ii) after the date on which the indi-
4 vidual enrolls at such institution, the Sec-
5 retary prescribing or modifying regulations
6 or policies of the Department affecting
7 such approval or disapproval; and

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

11 “(c) PERIOD NOT CHARGED.—The period for which,
12 by reason of this subsection, educational assistance is not
13 charged against entitlement or counted toward the appli-
14 cable aggregate period under section 3695 of this title
15 shall not exceed the aggregate of—

16 “(1) the portion of the period of enrollment in
17 the course from which the individual failed to receive
18 credit or with respect to which the individual lost
19 training time, as determined under subsection
20 (b)(2), and

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

23 “(d) CONTINUING PURSUIT OF DISAPPROVED
24 COURSES.—(1) The Secretary may treat a course of edu-
25 cation that is disapproved under this chapter as being ap-

1 proved under this chapter with respect to an individual
2 described in paragraph (2) if the Secretary determines,
3 on a case-by-case basis, that—

4 “(A) such disapproval is the result of an action
5 described in clause (i) or (ii) of subsection (b)(1)(B);
6 and

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

9 “(2) An individual described in this paragraph is an
10 individual who is pursuing a course of education at an
11 educational institution under chapters 30, 32, 33, or 35
12 of this title, or chapters 1606 or 1607 of title 10, as of
13 the date on which the course is disapproved under this
14 chapter.”.

15 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
16 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended
17 by inserting after the item relating to section 3698
18 the following new item:

“3699. Effects of closure or disapproval of educational institution.”.

19 (b) MONTHLY HOUSING STIPEND.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) section 3680
21 of such title is amended—

22 (A) by striking the matter after paragraph

23 (3)(B);

1 (B) in paragraph (3), by redesignating
2 subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and
3 (ii), respectively;

4 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
5 through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C),
6 respectively;

7 (D) in the matter preceding subparagraph
8 (A), as redesignated, in the first sentence, by
9 striking “Payment of” and inserting “(1) Ex-
10 cept as provided in paragraph (2), payment of”;
11 and

12 (E) by adding at the end the following new
13 paragraph (2):

14 “(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary
15 may, pursuant to such regulations as the Secretary shall
16 prescribe, continue to pay allowances to eligible veterans
17 and eligible persons enrolled in courses set forth in para-
18 graph (1)(A)—

19 “(A) during periods when educational institu-
20 tions are temporarily closed under an established
21 policy based on an Executive order of the President
22 or due to an emergency situation, except that the
23 total number of weeks for which allowances may
24 continue to be so payable in any 12-month period
25 may not exceed four weeks; or

1 “(B) solely for the purpose of awarding a
2 monthly housing stipend described in section 3313
3 of this title, during periods following a permanent
4 closure of an educational institution, or following the
5 disapproval of a course of study described in section
6 3699(b)(1)(B) of this title, except that payment of
7 such a stipend may only be continued until the ear-
8 lier of—

9 “(i) the date of the end of the term, quar-
10 ter, or semester during which the closure or dis-
11 approval occurred; and

12 “(ii) the date that is 120 days after the
13 date of the closure or disapproval.”.

14 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph
15 (1)(C)(ii) of such subsection, as redesignated, is
16 amended by striking “described in subelause (A) of
17 this clause” and inserting “described in clause (i)”.

18 (c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this
19 section shall take effect on the date that is 90 days after
20 the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with
21 respect to courses and programs of education discontinued
22 as described in section 3699 of title 38, United States
23 Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), after January 1,
24 2015.

1 **SEC. 108. INCLUSION OF FRY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS IN**
2 **YELLOW RIBBON G.I. EDUCATION ENHANCE-**
3 **MENT PROGRAM.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3317(a) of title 38,
5 United States Code, is amended by striking “paragraphs
6 (1) and (2) of section 3311(b)” and inserting “paragraphs
7 (1), (2), (8), and (9) of section 3311(b) of this title”.

8 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
9 subsection (a) shall take effect on August 1, 2018.

10 **SEC. 109. ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZED TRANSFER OF UNUSED**
11 **POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENE-**
12 **FITS TO DEPENDENTS UPON DEATH OF**
13 **ORIGINALLY DESIGNATED DEPENDENT.**

14 (a) TRANSFER UPON DEATH OF DEPENDENT.—Sec-
15 tion 3319 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (f)(1), by inserting after “sec-
17 tion 3321” the following: “, and except as provided
18 in subsection (k) or (l),”; and

19 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
20 section:

21 “(k) ADDITIONAL TRANSFER UPON DEATH OF DE-
22 PENDENT.—In the case of a dependent to whom entitle-
23 ment to educational assistance is transferred under this
24 section who dies before using all of such entitlement, the
25 individual who transferred the entitlement to the depend-
26 ent may transfer any remaining entitlement to a different

1 eligible dependent, notwithstanding whether the individual
2 is serving as a member of the Armed Forces when such
3 transfer is executed.

4 “(l) TRANSFER BY DEPENDENT.—In the case of an
5 individual who transfers entitlement to educational assist-
6 ance under this section who dies before the dependent to
7 whom entitlement to educational assistance is so trans-
8 ferred has used all of such entitlement, such dependent
9 may transfer such entitlement to another eligible depend-
10 ent in accordance with the provisions of this section.”.

11 (b) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

12 (1) ELIGIBLE DEATHS.—The amendments
13 made by this section shall apply with respect to
14 deaths occurring on or after August 1, 2009.

15 (2) USE OF ENTITLEMENT.—A dependent to
16 whom entitlement to educational assistance is trans-
17 ferred under subsection (k) or (l) of section 3319 of
18 title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection
19 (a), may use such entitlement to pursue a course of
20 education beginning on or after August 1, 2018.

21 **SEC. 110. EDITH NOURSE ROGERS STEM SCHOLARSHIP.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 33 of
23 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
24 end the following new section:

1 **“§ 3320. Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the limitation under
3 subsection (f), the Secretary shall provide additional bene-
4 fits to eligible individuals selected by the Secretary under
5 this section. Such benefits shall be known as the ‘Edith
6 Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship’.

7 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this section, an
8 eligible individual is an individual—

9 “(1) who is or was entitled to educational as-
10 sistance under section 3311 of this title;

11 “(2) who has used all of the educational assist-
12 ance to which the individual is entitled under this
13 chapter or will, based on the individual’s rate of
14 usage, use all of such assistance within 180 days of
15 applying for benefits under this section;

16 “(3) who applies for assistance under this sec-
17 tion; and

18 “(4) who—

19 “(A) is an individual who—

20 “(i) is enrolled in a program of edu-
21 cation leading to a post-secondary degree
22 that requires more than the standard 128
23 semester (or 192 quarter) credit hours for
24 completion in—

25 “(I) biological or biomedical
26 science;

- 1 “(II) physical science;
2 “(III) science technologies or
3 technicians;
4 “(IV) computer and information
5 science and support services;
6 “(V) mathematics or statistics;
7 “(VI) engineering;
8 “(VII) engineering technologies
9 or an engineering-related field;
10 “(VIII) a health profession or re-
11 lated program; or
12 “(IX) a medical residency pro-
13 gram; and
14 “(ii) has completed at least 60 stand-
15 ard semester (or 90 quarter) credit hours
16 in a field referred to in clause (i); or
17 “(B) is an individual who has earned a
18 post-secondary degree in a field referred to in
19 subparagraph (A)(i) and is enrolled in a pro-
20 gram of education leading to a teaching certifi-
21 cation.

22 “(c) PRIORITY.—In selecting eligible individuals to
23 receive additional benefits under this section, the Sec-
24 retary shall give priority to the following individuals:

1 “(1) Individuals who require the most credit
2 hours described in subsection (b)(4).

3 “(2) Individuals who are entitled to educational
4 assistance under this chapter by reason of para-
5 graph (1), (2), (8), or (9) of section 3311(b) of this
6 title.

7 “(d) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—(1) The Secretary
8 shall pay to each eligible individual who receives additional
9 benefits under this section a one-time, lump sum payment
10 that is the lesser of the following amounts (adjusted with
11 respect to the individual pursuant to paragraphs (2)
12 through (7) of section 3313(c), as appropriate):

13 “(A) The amount payable under section 3313
14 of this title for nine months of the program of edu-
15 cation in which the individual is enrolled.

16 “(B) \$30,000.

17 “(2) The Secretary may not pay to such an individual
18 an amount in addition to the amount payable under para-
19 graph (1) by reason of section 3317 of this title.

20 “(3) An individual who receives additional benefits
21 under this section may also receive amounts payable by
22 a college or university pursuant to section 3317 of this
23 title.

24 “(e) PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER.—An individual
25 who receives additional benefits under this section may not

1 transfer any amount of such additional benefits under sec-
2 tion 3319 of this title.

3 “(f) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF TOTAL ASSISTANCE.—
4 The total amount of benefits paid to all eligible individuals
5 under this section may not exceed \$100,000,000 for any
6 fiscal year.”.

7 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
8 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
9 after the item relating to section 3319 the following new
10 item:

“3320. Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship.”.

11 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 3320 of title 38,
12 United States Code, shall take effect on August 1, 2018.

13 **SEC. 111. HONORING THE NATIONAL SERVICE OF MEM-**
14 **BERS OF THE ARMED FORCES BY ELIMI-**
15 **NATION OF TIME LIMITATION FOR USE OF**
16 **ENTITLEMENT.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 3321 of
18 title 38, United States Code, is amended—

19 (1) by striking “individual’s entitlement” and
20 all that follows through the period and inserting “in-
21 dividual’s entitlement—”; and

22 (2) by adding at the end the following new
23 paragraphs:

24 “(1) in the case of an individual who first be-
25 comes entitled to such entitlement before January,

1 1, 2018, expires at the end of the 15-year period be-
2 ginning on the date of such individual's last dis-
3 charge or release from active duty; or

4 “(2) in the case of an individual who first be-
5 comes entitled to such entitlement on or after Janu-
6 ary 1, 2018, shall not expire.”.

7 (b) CHILDREN OF DECEASED MEMBERS.—Sub-
8 section (b)(4) of such section is amended—

9 (1) by inserting “of this title” after
10 “3311(b)(8)”;

11 (2) by striking “child's entitlement” and all
12 that follows through the period and inserting
13 “child's entitlement—”; and

14 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
15 paragraphs:

16 “(A) in the case of a child who first be-
17 comes entitled to such entitlement before Janu-
18 ary 1, 2018, expires at the end of the 15-year
19 period beginning on the date of such child's
20 eighteenth birthday; or

21 “(B) in the case of a child who first be-
22 comes entitled to such entitlement on or after
23 January 1, 2018, shall not expire.”.

1 **SEC. 112. MONTHLY STIPEND FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF**
2 **THE RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED**
3 **FORCES RECEIVING POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL**
4 **ASSISTANCE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3313 of title 38, United
6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing new subsection:

8 “(j) DETERMINATION OF MONTHLY STIPENDS DUR-
9 ING CERTAIN ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE.—

10 “(1) PRO RATA BASIS.—In any month in which
11 an individual described in paragraph (2) is per-
12 forming active duty service described in section
13 3301(1)(B) of this title, the Secretary shall deter-
14 mine the amount of monthly stipends payable under
15 this section for such month on a pro rata basis for
16 the period of such month in which the covered indi-
17 vidual is not performing such active duty service.

18 “(2) INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED.—An individual
19 described in this paragraph is an individual who is—

20 “(A) a member of the reserve components
21 of the Armed Forces; and

22 “(B) pursuing a program of education
23 using educational assistance under this chap-
24 ter.”.

25 (b) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by sub-
26 section (a) shall apply with respect to a quarter, semester,

1 or term, as applicable, commencing on or after August 1,
2 2018.

3 **SEC. 113. IMPROVEMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
4 **OF THE VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRA-**
5 **TION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
6 **AFFAIRS.**

7 (a) PROCESSING OF CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL ASSIST-
8 ANCE CLAIMS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall,
9 to the maximum extent possible, make such changes and
10 improvements to the information technology system of the
11 Veterans Benefits Administration of the Department of
12 Veterans Affairs to ensure that—

13 (1) to the maximum extent possible, all original
14 and supplemental claims for educational assistance
15 under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code,
16 are adjudicated electronically; and

17 (2) rules-based processing is used to make deci-
18 sions with respect to such claims with little human
19 intervention.

20 (b) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180
21 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
22 retary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a plan
23 to implement the changes and improvements described in
24 subsection (a).

1 (c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
2 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans
3 Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the implemen-
4 tation of the changes and improvements described in sub-
5 section (a).

6 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
7 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans
8 Affairs \$30,000,000 to carry out this section during fiscal
9 years 2018 and 2019.

10 **SEC. 114. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HIGH**
11 **TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM.**

12 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
13 fairs shall carry out a pilot program under which the Sec-
14 retary shall provide eligible veterans with the opportunity
15 to enroll in high technology programs of education.

16 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of the pilot program
17 under this section, an eligible veteran is a veteran who
18 is entitled to educational assistance under the laws admin-
19 istered by the Secretary.

20 (c) CONTRACTS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of carrying out
22 subsection (a), by not later than 180 days after Au-
23 gust 1, 2018, the Secretary shall seek to enter into
24 contracts with multiple qualified providers of high
25 technology programs of education for the provision

1 of such programs to eligible veterans under the pilot
2 program.

3 (2) PAYMENT OF CONTRACTORS.—A contract
4 under this subsection shall provide that the Sec-
5 retary shall pay to a provider—

6 (A) 25 percent of the cost of providing the
7 program of education upon the enrollment of an
8 eligible veteran in the program;

9 (B) 25 percent of such cost upon the com-
10 pletion of the program by the veteran; and

11 (C) 50 percent of such cost upon the em-
12 ployment of the veteran in the field of study of
13 the program following completion of the pro-
14 gram.

15 (3) QUALIFIED PROVIDERS.—For purposes of
16 the pilot program, a provider of a high technology
17 program of education is qualified if—

18 (A) the provider has been operational for
19 at least two years;

20 (B) the provider has successfully provided
21 the high technology program for at least one
22 year; and

23 (C) the provider meets the approval cri-
24 teria developed by the Secretary under para-
25 graph (4).

1 (4) APPROVAL CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall
2 develop criteria for approving providers for purposes
3 of the pilot program. In developing such criteria, the
4 Secretary may consult with State approving agen-
5 cies. Such criteria is not required to meet the re-
6 quirements of section 3672 of title 38, United States
7 Code.

8 (5) TUITION REIMBURSEMENT.—In entering
9 into contracts to carry out the pilot program, the
10 Secretary shall give preference to a qualified pro-
11 vider that offers tuition reimbursement for any stu-
12 dent who—

13 (A) completes a program of education of-
14 ferred by the provider; and

15 (B) does not find full-time meaningful em-
16 ployment in the field of study of the program
17 within the 180-day period beginning on the date
18 the student completes the program.

19 (d) HOUSING STIPEND.—The Secretary shall pay to
20 each eligible veteran who is enrolled in a high technology
21 program of education under the pilot program on a full-
22 time basis a monthly housing stipend equal to the prod-
23 uct—

24 (1) of—

1 (A) in the case of a veteran pursuing resi-
2 dent training, the monthly amount of the basic
3 allowance for housing payable under section
4 403 of title 37, United States Code, for a mem-
5 ber with dependents in pay grade E-5 residing
6 in the military housing area that encompasses
7 all or the majority portion of the ZIP code area
8 in which is located the institution at which the
9 individual is enrolled; or

10 (B) in the case of a veteran pursuing a
11 program of education through distance learn-
12 ing, a monthly amount equal to 50 percent of
13 the amount payable under subparagraph (A),
14 multiplied by

15 (2) the lesser of—

16 (A) 1.0; or

17 (B) the number of course hours borne by
18 the individual in pursuit of the program of edu-
19 cation involved, divided by the minimum num-
20 ber of course hours required for full-time pur-
21 suit of such program of education, rounded to
22 the nearest multiple of 10.

23 (e) HIGH TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM OF EDUCATION
24 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “high technology

1 program of education'' means a program of education
2 that—

3 (1) is offered by an entity other than an institu-
4 tion of higher learning;

5 (2) does not lead to a degree; and

6 (3) provides instruction in computer program-
7 ming, computer software, media application, data
8 processing, or information sciences.

9 (f) REPORTS.—

10 (1) SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Not
11 later than one year after the date of the enactment
12 of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary
13 shall submit to Congress a report on the pilot pro-
14 gram under this section.

15 (2) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—

16 (A) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than
17 three years after the date on which the Sec-
18 retary first enters into a contract under this
19 section, the Comptroller General of the United
20 States shall submit to Congress a report con-
21 taining the results of the interim assessment of
22 the Comptroller General. Such report shall in-
23 clude the recommendations of the Comptroller
24 General for improving the pilot program and an
25 assessment of each of the following:

1 (i) The technology experience of the
2 directors and instructors of the providers
3 of high technology programs of education
4 under the pilot program.

5 (ii) Whether the providers cooperated
6 with the technology industry to create the
7 curriculum for the program of education.

8 (iii) Whether the providers use an
9 open source curriculum for the program of
10 education.

11 (iv) The admittance rate into the pilot
12 program.

13 (v) The job placement rate for vet-
14 erans who completed a program of edu-
15 cation under the pilot program in the field
16 of study of the program.

17 (vi) The average salary of veterans
18 who completed a program of education
19 under the pilot program and were subse-
20 quently employed.

21 (vii) The average age of veterans who
22 participated in the pilot program.

23 (B) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than five
24 years after the date on which the Secretary first
25 enters into a contract under this section, the

1 Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a
2 final report on the pilot program. Such report
3 shall include the recommendation of the Comp-
4 troller General with respect to whether the pro-
5 gram should be extended and an assessment of
6 each of the following:

7 (i) Each item described in clauses (i)
8 through (vii) of subparagraph (A).

9 (ii) The percentage of veterans who
10 completed a program of education under
11 the pilot program who were subsequently
12 employed for a period of six months or
13 longer in a field of study of the program.

14 (iii) The percentage of veterans who
15 completed a program of education under
16 the pilot program who were subsequently
17 employed for a period of less than six
18 months in a field of study of the program.

19 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
20 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans
21 Affairs \$15,000,000 for each fiscal year during which the
22 Secretary carries out a pilot program under this section.

23 (h) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out a
24 pilot program under this section shall terminate on the

1 date that is five years after the date on which the Sec-
2 retary first enters into a contract under this section.

3 **TITLE II—OTHER EDUCATIONAL** 4 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

5 **SEC. 201. WORK-STUDY ALLOWANCE.**

6 Section 3485(a)(4) of title 38, United States Code,
7 is amended by striking “the period beginning on June 30,
8 2017, and ending on June 30, 2022,” each place it ap-
9 pears and inserting “any time on or after June 30,
10 2017,”.

11 **SEC. 202. DURATION OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE UNDER** 12 **SURVIVORS’ AND DEPENDENTS’ EDU-** 13 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

14 Section 3511(a)(1) of title 38, United States Code,
15 is amended—

16 (1) by striking “chapter for” and all that fol-
17 lows through the period and inserting “chapter—”;
18 and

19 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
20 paragraphs:

21 “(A) in the case of a person who first enrolls
22 in a program of education using such entitlement be-
23 fore August 1, 2018, for an aggregate period not in
24 excess of 45 months (or to the equivalent thereof in
25 part-time training); or

1 “(B) in the case of a person who first enrolls
2 in a program of education using such entitlement on
3 or after August 1, 2018, for an aggregate period not
4 in excess of 36 months (or to the equivalent thereof
5 in part-time training).”.

6 **SEC. 203. OLIN E. TEAGUE INCREASE IN AMOUNTS OF EDU-**
7 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE PAYABLE UNDER**
8 **SURVIVORS’ AND DEPENDENTS’ EDU-**
9 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

10 (a) INCREASE.—Section 3532 of title 38, United
11 States Code, is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1)—

14 (i) by striking “\$788” and inserting
15 “\$1,224”;

16 (ii) by striking “\$592” and inserting
17 “\$967”; and

18 (iii) by striking “\$394” and inserting
19 “\$710”; and

20 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking
21 “\$788” and inserting “\$1,224”; and

22 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “\$788” and
23 inserting “\$1,224”.

1 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
2 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to a month that
3 begins on or after August 1, 2018.

4 **TITLE III—ADMINISTRATION OF**
5 **EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**
6 **PROGRAMS**

7 **SEC. 301. STATE APPROVING AGENCY FUNDING.**

8 (a) INCREASE.—Section 3674(a) of title 38, United
9 States Code, is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “out of
11 amounts available for the payment of readjustment
12 benefits” and inserting “out of amounts in the De-
13 partment of Veterans Affairs readjustment benefits
14 account and amounts appropriated to the Sec-
15 retary”;

16 (2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-
17 graph (5);

18 (3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
19 lowing new paragraph (4):

20 “(4) In addition to amounts made available under
21 paragraph (5), there is authorized to be appropriated to
22 carry out this section \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and
23 each subsequent fiscal year.”; and

24 (4) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated—

1 (A) by striking “The total” and inserting

2 “(A) The total”;

3 (B) by striking “\$19,000,000” and insert-
4 ing “\$21,000,000”;

5 (C) by adding at the end the following new
6 subparagraph:

7 “(B) Beginning in fiscal year 2019, whenever there
8 is an increase in benefit amounts payable under title II
9 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) as a
10 result of a determination made under section 215(i) of
11 such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)), the Secretary shall, effective
12 on the date of such increase in benefit amounts, increase
13 the amount in effect under subparagraph (A), as in effect
14 immediately prior to the date of such increase in benefit
15 amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act,
16 by the same percentage as the percentage by which such
17 benefit amounts are increased.”.

18 **SEC. 302. AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF POST-9/11 EDU-**
19 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO PURSUE INDE-**
20 **PENDENT STUDY PROGRAMS AT CERTAIN**
21 **EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE NOT**
22 **INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING.**

23 Paragraph (4) of section 3680A(a) of title 38, United
24 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

1 “(4) any independent study program except an
2 independent study program (including such a pro-
3 gram taken over open circuit television) that—

4 “(A) is accredited by a nationally recog-
5 nized accrediting agency; and

6 “(B) leads—

7 “(i) to a standard college degree;

8 “(ii) to a certificate that reflects edu-
9 cational attainment offered by an institu-
10 tion of higher learning; or

11 “(iii) to a certificate that reflects com-
12 pletion of a course of study offered by—

13 “(I) an area career and technical
14 education school (as defined in sub-
15 paragraphs (C) and (D) of section
16 3(3) of the Carl D. Perkins Career
17 and Technical Education Act of 2006
18 (20 U.S.C. 2302(3))) that provides
19 education at the postsecondary level;
20 or

21 “(II) a postsecondary vocational
22 institution (as defined in section
23 102(c) of the Higher Education Act of
24 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(c))) that pro-

1 vides education at the postsecondary
2 level.”.

3 **SEC. 303. PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON PRIORITY EN-**
4 **ROLLMENT FOR VETERANS IN CERTAIN**
5 **COURSES OF EDUCATION.**

6 Section 3698(e)(1)(C) of title 38, United States
7 Code, is amended—

8 (1) in clause (ix), by striking “and” at the end;

9 (2) in clause (x), by striking the period and in-
10 serting “; and”; and

11 (3) by adding at the end the following new
12 clause:

13 “(xi) information on whether the institu-
14 tion administers a priority enrollment system
15 that allows certain student veterans to enroll in
16 courses earlier than other students.”.

17 **SEC. 304. LIMITATION ON USE OF REPORTING FEES PAY-**
18 **ABLE TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND**
19 **SPONSORS OF PROGRAMS OF APPRENTICE-**
20 **SHIP.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3684(c) of title 38,
22 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

23 “(c)(1) The Secretary may pay to any educational in-
24 stitution, or to the sponsor of a program of apprenticeship,
25 furnishing education or training under either this chapter

1 or chapter 31, 34, or 35 of this title, a reporting fee which
2 will be in lieu of any other compensation or reimbursement
3 for reports or certifications which such educational institu-
4 tion or sponsor of a program of apprenticeship is required
5 to submit to the Secretary by law or regulation.

6 “(2) Such reporting fee shall be computed for each
7 calendar year by multiplying \$16 by the number of eligible
8 veterans or eligible persons enrolled under this chapter or
9 chapter 31, 34, or 35 of this title. The reporting fee shall
10 be paid to such educational institution or sponsor of a pro-
11 gram of apprenticeship as soon as feasible after the end
12 of the calendar year for which it is applicable.

13 “(3) No reporting fee payable to an educational insti-
14 tution under this subsection shall be subject to offset by
15 the Secretary against any liability of such institution for
16 any overpayment for which such institution may be admin-
17 istratively determined to be liable under section 3685 of
18 this title unless such liability is not contested by such in-
19 stitution or has been upheld by a final decree of a court
20 of appropriate jurisdiction.

21 “(4) Any reporting fee paid to an educational institu-
22 tion or sponsor of a program of apprenticeship after the
23 date of the enactment of the Post-9/11 Veterans Edu-
24 cational Assistance Improvements Act of 2011 (Public
25 Law 111-377)—

1 “(A) shall be utilized by such institution or
2 sponsor solely for the making of certifications re-
3 quired under this chapter or chapter 31, 34, or 35
4 of this title or for otherwise supporting programs for
5 veterans; and

6 “(B) with respect to an institution that has 100
7 or more enrollees described in paragraph (2) may
8 not be used for or merged with amounts available
9 for the general fund of the educational institution or
10 sponsor of a program of apprenticeship.

11 “(5) The reporting fee payable under this subsection
12 shall be paid from amounts appropriated for readjustment
13 benefits.”.

14 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by
15 subsection (a) shall take effect on August 1, 2018.

16 **SEC. 305. TRAINING FOR SCHOOL CERTIFYING OFFICIALS.**

17 (a) **TRAINING REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary of
18 Veterans Affairs shall, in consultation with the State ap-
19 proving agencies, set forth requirements relating to train-
20 ing for school certifying officials employed by covered edu-
21 cational institutions offering courses of education ap-
22 proved under chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code.
23 If a covered educational institution does not ensure that
24 a school certifying official employed by the educational in-
25 stitution meets such requirements, the Secretary may dis-

1 approve any course of education offered by such edu-
2 cational institution.

3 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) The term “covered educational institution”
5 means an educational institution that has enrolled
6 20 or more individuals using educational assistance
7 under title 38, United States Code.

8 (2) The term “school certifying official” means
9 an employee of an educational institution with pri-
10 mary responsibility for certifying veteran enrollment
11 at the educational institution.

12 (3) The term “State approving agency” means
13 a department or agency of a State designated under
14 section 3671 of title 38, United States Code.

15 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
16 on August 1, 2018.

17 **SEC. 306. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR ADVISORY COM-**
18 **MITTEE ON EDUCATION.**

19 Section 3692 of such title is amended by striking
20 “December 31, 2017” and inserting “December 31,
21 2022”.

1 **SEC. 307. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVISION**
2 **OF ON-CAMPUS EDUCATIONAL AND VOCA-**
3 **TIONAL COUNSELING FOR VETERANS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 36 of title 38, United
5 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3697A
6 the following new section:

7 **“§ 3697B. On-campus educational and vocational**
8 **counseling**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide edu-
10 cational and vocational counseling services for individuals
11 described in section 3697A(b) of this title at locations on
12 the campuses of institutions of higher learning selected by
13 the Secretary. Such counseling services shall be provided
14 by employees of the Department who provide such services
15 under section 3697A of this title.

16 “(b) SELECTION OF LOCATIONS.—(1) To be selected
17 by the Secretary under this section, an institution of high-
18 er learning shall provide an appropriate space on the cam-
19 pus of the institution where counseling services can be pro-
20 vided under this section.

21 “(2) In selecting locations for the provision of coun-
22 seling services under this section, the Secretary shall seek
23 to select locations where the maximum number of veterans
24 would have access to such services.

25 “(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days
26 after the date of the enactment of this section, and each

1 year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a
2 report on the counseling services provided under this sec-
3 tion. Such report shall include, for the year covered by
4 the report—

5 “(1) the average ratio of counselors providing
6 such services to individuals who received such serv-
7 ices at each location where such services were pro-
8 vided;

9 “(2) a description of such services provided;

10 “(3) the recommendations of the Secretary for
11 improving the provision of such services; and

12 “(4) any other matters the Secretary deter-
13 mines appropriate.”.

14 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
15 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
16 after the item relating to section 3697A the following new
17 item:

“3697B. On-campus educational and vocational counseling.”.

18 **SEC. 308. PROVISION OF INFORMATION REGARDING VET-**
19 **ERAN ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL AS-**
20 **SISTANCE.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 36 of
22 title 38, United States Code, is further amended by adding
23 at the end the following new section:

1 **“§ 3699A. Provision of certain information to edu-**
2 **ational institutions**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—For each veteran or other indi-
4 vidual pursuing a course of education that has been ap-
5 proved under this chapter using educational assistance to
6 which the veteran or other individual is entitled under
7 chapter 30, 32, 33, or 35 of this title, the Secretary shall
8 make available to the educational institution offering the
9 course information about the amount of such educational
10 assistance to which the veteran or other individual is enti-
11 tled. Such information shall be provided to such edu-
12 cational institution through a secure information tech-
13 nology system accessible by the educational institution and
14 shall be regularly updated to reflect any amounts used by
15 the veteran or other individual.

16 “(b) ELECTION.—A veteran or other individual pur-
17 suing a course of education described in subsection (a)
18 may elect not to provide the information described in such
19 subsection to an educational institution in a manner pre-
20 scribed by the Secretary.”.

21 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
22 at the beginning of such chapter is further amended by
23 inserting after the item relating to section 3699 the fol-
24 lowing new item:

“3699A. Provision of certain information to educational institutions.”.

1 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 3699A of title 38,
2 United States Code, as added by this section, shall take
3 effect on August 1, 2018.

4 **SEC. 309. TREATMENT, FOR PURPOSES OF EDUCATIONAL**
5 **ASSISTANCE ADMINISTERED BY THE SEC-**
6 **RETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, OF EDU-**
7 **CATIONAL COURSES THAT BEGIN SEVEN OR**
8 **FEWER DAYS AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF AN**
9 **ACADEMIC TERM.**

10 Section 3684(a) of title 38, United States Code, is
11 amended—

12 (1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-
13 graph (5); and

14 (2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
15 lowing new paragraph (4):

16 “(4) A course offered by an educational institution
17 that does not begin on the first day of an academic term,
18 but does begin seven or fewer days after such day, shall
19 be treated as beginning on such day for purposes of this
20 section.”.

1 **TITLE IV—RESERVE**
2 **COMPONENT BENEFITS**

3 **SEC. 401. ELIGIBILITY OF RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS**
4 **FOR POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3301(1)(B) of title 38,
6 United States Code, is amended by striking “or 12304”
7 and inserting “12304, 12304a, or 12304b”.

8 (b) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.—The amendment
9 made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to service
10 in the Armed Forces occurring on or after the date of the
11 enactment of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assist-
12 ance Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–252).

13 (c) APPLICATION WITH RESPECT TO USE OF ENTI-
14 TLEMENT.—An individual who is entitled to educational
15 assistance by reason of the amendment made by sub-
16 section (a) may use such entitlement to pursue a course
17 of education beginning on or after August 1, 2018.

18 **SEC. 402. TIME LIMITATION FOR TRAINING AND REHABILI-**
19 **TATION FOR VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CON-**
20 **NECTED DISABILITIES.**

21 Section 3103(f) of title 38, United States Code, is
22 amended by striking “or 12304” and inserting “12304,
23 12304a, or 12304b”.

1 **TITLE V—OTHER MATTERS**

2 **SEC. 501. REPEAL INAPPLICABILITY OF MODIFICATION OF**
3 **BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING TO BENE-**
4 **FITS UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY SEC-**
5 **RETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) **REPEAL.**—Subsection (b) of section 604 of the
7 Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National De-
8 fense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law
9 113-291; 37 U.S.C. 403 note) is repealed.

10 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by
11 subsection (a) shall take effect on January 1, 2018, and
12 shall apply with respect to individuals who first use their
13 entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 33 of
14 title 38, United States Code, on or after such date.