

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4830

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 2018

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the disapproval of any course of education for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs unless the educational institution providing the course permits individuals to attend or participate in courses pending payment by Department, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Servicemembers Im-
3 proved Transition through Reforms for Ensuring Progress
4 Act” or the “SIT-REP Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. DISAPPROVAL FOR PURPOSES OF EDUCATIONAL**
6 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OF DEPARTMENT OF**
7 **VETERANS AFFAIRS OF CERTAIN COURSES**
8 **OF EDUCATION THAT DO NOT PERMIT INDI-**
9 **VIDUALS TO ATTEND OR PARTICIPATE IN**
10 **COURSES PENDING PAYMENT.**

11 Section 3679 of title 38, United States Code, is
12 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
13 section:

14 “(e)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
15 chapter, beginning on August 1, 2018, a State approving
16 agency, or the Secretary when acting in the role of the
17 State approving agency, shall disapprove a course of edu-
18 cation provided by an educational institution unless the
19 educational institution has adopted the following policies:

20 “(A) A policy that permits any covered indi-
21 vidual to attend or participate in the course of edu-
22 cation during the period beginning on the date on
23 which the individual provides to the educational in-
24 stitution a certificate of eligibility for entitlement to
25 educational assistance under chapter 31 or 33 of

1 this title and ending on the earlier of the following
2 dates:

3 “(i) The date on which the Secretary pro-
4 vides payment for such course of education to
5 such institution.

6 “(ii) The date that is 90 days after the
7 date on which the individual provides to the
8 educational institution such certificate of eligi-
9 bility.

10 “(B) A policy that ensures that the educational
11 institution will not impose any penalty, including the
12 assessment of late fees, the denial of access to class-
13 es, libraries, or other institutional facilities, or the
14 requirement that a covered individual borrow addi-
15 tional funds, on any covered individual because of
16 the individual’s inability to meet his or her financial
17 obligations to the institution as a result of the de-
18 layed disbursement of any payment to be provided
19 by the Secretary.

20 “(2) For purposes of this subsection, a covered indi-
21 vidual is any individual who is entitled to educational as-
22 sistance under chapter 31 or 33 of this title.

23 “(3) The Secretary may waive such requirements of
24 paragraph (1) as the Secretary considers appropriate.”.

1 **SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION REGARDING APPLICABILITY OF AU-**
2 **THORITY TO USE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**
3 **TO PURSUE INDEPENDENT STUDY PRO-**
4 **GRAMS AT CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL INSTITU-**
5 **TIONS THAT ARE NOT INSTITUTIONS OF**
6 **HIGHER LEARNING.**

7 The section heading for section 302 of the Harry W.
8 Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017
9 (Public Law 115–48) is amended to read as follows (and
10 the table of contents for such Act is conformed accord-
11 ingly):

12 **“SEC. 302. AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF EDUCATIONAL AS-**
13 **SISTANCE UNDER ANY OF THE EDUCATIONAL**
14 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OF THE DEPART-**
15 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO PURSUE**
16 **INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAMS AT CER-**
17 **TAIN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE**
18 **NOT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING.”.**

Passed the House of Representatives May 21, 2018.

Attest: KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.