

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 5684, With an Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

110TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5684

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 2, 2008

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN (for herself and Mr. BOOZMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the basic educational assistance program 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Veterans Education Improvement Act of 2008”.

4 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
5 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Increase in amount of basic educational assistance.
- Sec. 3. Extension of time limitation for use of eligibility and entitlement to educational assistance.
- Sec. 4. Monthly stipend for recipients of educational assistance allowance.
- Sec. 5. Extension of period for collection of fee for basic educational assistance.
- Sec. 6. Use of educational assistance for business courses and seminars.
- Sec. 7. Use of educational assistance for courses taken to prepare for licensing or certification tests.
- Sec. 8. Use of educational assistance to repay Federal student loans.
- Sec. 9. Opportunity to withdraw election not to enroll in educational assistance program.
- Sec. 10. Montgomery GI Bill benefits not to reduce financial aid.
- Sec. 11. Extension of increase in benefit for certain individuals pursuing apprenticeships or on-job training.
- Sec. 12. Modification of amount available for reimbursement of State and local agencies administering veterans education benefits.
- Sec. 13. Provision of basic educational assistance benefits for veterans discharged from active duty with general discharge.
- Sec. 14. Increase in amount of reporting fee payable to educational institutions that enroll veterans receiving educational assistance.
- Sec. 15. Provision of additional areas of work-study for veterans.
- Sec. 16. 5-year pilot program for on-campus work-study positions.
- Sec. 17. Increase in employees for Education Service.
- Sec. 18. Upgrade of certain information technology.
- Sec. 19. Modification of advance payment of initial educational assistance or subsistence allowance.
- Sec. 20. Modification of period of eligibility applicable to certain spouses of individuals with service-connected total disabilities permanent in nature.
- Sec. 21. Consideration of additional contributions and payments in calculating entitlement charge for certain programs of education.
- Sec. 22. Expansion of programs of education eligible for accelerated payments of educational assistance under laws administered by Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 23. Increase in amount of educational assistance for members of the Selected Reserve and reserve component members supporting contingency operations and certain other operations.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF BASIC EDUCATIONAL AS-**
2 **SISTANCE.**

3 Section 3015 of title 38, United States Code, is
4 amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

6 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “Jan-
7 uary 1, 2002, \$800” and inserting “January 1,
8 2009, \$1,450”;

9 (B) by striking subparagraphs (B) and
10 (C); and

11 (C) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as
12 subparagraph (B); and

13 (2) in subsection (b)(1)—

14 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “Jan-
15 uary 1, 2002, \$650” and inserting “January 1,
16 2009, \$1,250”;

17 (B) by striking subparagraphs (B) and
18 (C); and

19 (C) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as
20 subparagraph (B).

21 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF TIME LIMITATION FOR USE OF ELI-**
22 **GIBILITY AND ENTITLEMENT TO EDU-**
23 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE.**

24 (a) **EXTENSION OF TIME LIMITATION.**—Section
25 3031 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by striking “10-year period” each place it
2 appears and inserting “15-year period”; and

3 (2) in subsection (a)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and”
5 after the semicolon;

6 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “; and”
7 and inserting a period; and

8 (C) by striking paragraph (3).

9 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
10 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to an individual
11 who is entitled to educational assistance under chapter 30
12 of such title on the date that is 90 days after the date
13 of the enactment of this Act or who becomes entitled to
14 educational assistance under such chapter after such date.

15 **SEC. 4. MONTHLY STIPEND FOR RECIPIENTS OF EDU-**
16 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE.**

17 (a) ENTITLEMENT TO MONTHLY STIPEND.—Sub-
18 chapter II of chapter 30 of title 38, United States Code,
19 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

20 **“§ 3020A. Educational stipend**

21 “(a) ENTITLEMENT.—Each individual who is receiv-
22 ing educational assistance under this chapter and who is
23 pursuing a program of education at an institution of high-
24 er learning (as such term is defined in section 3452(f) of

1 this title) is entitled to an educational stipend under this
2 section.

3 “(b) AMOUNT OF STIPEND.—An educational stipend
4 under this section shall be paid to an individual who is
5 entitled to such a stipend—

6 “(1) in the case of an individual pursuing an
7 approved program of education on at least a half-
8 time basis, at the monthly rate of \$500; and

9 “(2) in the case of an individual pursuing an
10 approved program of education on less than a half-
11 time basis, at the monthly rate of \$250.”.

12 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
13 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
14 at the end of the items relating to subchapter II the fol-
15 lowing new item:

“3020A. Educational stipend.”.

16 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 3020A of title 38,
17 United States Code, as added by subsection (a) shall take
18 effect on the date that is two years after the date of the
19 enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to
20 months beginning after that date.

21 **SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR COLLECTION OF FEE**
22 **FOR BASIC EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.**

23 (a) BASIC EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR SERVICE
24 ON ACTIVE DUTY.—Section 3011(b)(1) of title 38, United
25 States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by striking “\$100” and inserting “\$50”;

2 and

3 (2) by striking “12” and inserting “24”.

4 (b) BASIC EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR SERVICE
5 IN THE SELECTED RESERVE.—Section 3012(c)(1) of such
6 title is amended—

7 (1) by striking “\$100” and inserting “\$50”;

8 and

9 (2) by striking “12” and inserting “24”.

10 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
11 this section shall take effect on the date that is 90 days
12 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

13 **SEC. 6. USE OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR BUSINESS**
14 **COURSES AND SEMINARS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
16 shall ensure that individuals entitled to educational assist-
17 ance under laws administered by the Secretary are entitled
18 to use such assistance for business courses and seminars,
19 if such courses or seminars are related to the operation
20 of a business, and for continuing education courses. The
21 Secretary shall treat the courses referred to in the pre-
22 ceding sentence in a similar manner as licensing and cer-
23 tification courses.

1 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall take ef-
2 fect on the date that is two years after the date of the
3 enactment of this Act.

4 **SEC. 7. USE OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR COURSES**
5 **TAKEN TO PREPARE FOR LICENSING OR CER-**
6 **TIFICATION TESTS.**

7 (a) BASIC EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Section
8 3452(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by
9 inserting after the fourth sentence the following new sen-
10 tence: “Such term also includes preparatory courses for
11 licensing or certification tests described in the preceding
12 sentence, as designated by the Secretary.”.

13 (b) SURVIVORS’ AND DEPENDENTS’ EDUCATIONAL
14 ASSISTANCE.—Section 3501(a)(5) of title 38, United
15 States Code, is amended by inserting after the second sen-
16 tence the following new sentence: “Such term also includes
17 preparatory courses for licensing or certification tests de-
18 scribed in the preceding sentence, as designated by the
19 Secretary.”.

20 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
21 subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on the date that
22 is two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 8. USE OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO REPAY FED-**
2 **ERAL STUDENT LOANS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 30 of
4 title 38, United States Code, as amended by section 4,
5 is further amended by inserting after section 3020A the
6 following new section:

7 **“§ 3020B. Use of educational assistance benefits for**
8 **the repayment of Federal student loans**
9 **for certain courses of education**

10 “(a) USE OF BENEFITS.—Notwithstanding any other
11 provision of this chapter, and subject to subsections (b)
12 through (e), an individual who is serving on active duty
13 and who is entitled to educational assistance under this
14 subchapter may apply amounts of such educational assist-
15 ance otherwise available to the individual to repay some
16 or all of any Federal student loan balance owed by the
17 individual for a course of education pursued by the indi-
18 vidual.

19 “(b) LIMITATIONS ON PAYMENTS.—(1) The amount
20 of an individual’s entitlement to educational assistance
21 that the individual may apply to the repayment of a stu-
22 dent loan balance under subsection (a) may not exceed
23 \$6,000 in any 12-month period.

24 “(2) In no event shall payment of educational assist-
25 ance under this section exceed the amount of the individ-
26 ual’s available entitlement under this chapter.

1 “(3) An individual entitled to educational assistance
2 under this subchapter may not apply such educational as-
3 sistance to any of the following:

4 “(A) A loan made to the parents of a dependent
5 student under section 428B of the Higher Education
6 Act of 1965.

7 “(B) A Federal Direct PLUS Loan made to the
8 parents of a dependent student.

9 “(C) A loan made under section 428C or
10 455(g) of such Act, to the extent that such loan was
11 used to repay—

12 “(i) a loan made to the parent of a de-
13 pendent student under section 428B of such
14 Act;

15 “(ii) a Federal Direct PLUS Loan made to
16 the parents of a dependent student.

17 “(c) AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall
18 make monthly payments under this section in such
19 amounts as the individual may elect for the repayment of
20 a Federal student loan of such an individual.

21 “(d) ARRANGEMENTS TO MAKE PAYMENTS.—The
22 Secretary shall enter into such arrangements, and shall
23 prescribe such regulations, as may be necessary to carry
24 out this section.

1 “(e) FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN DEFINED.—In this
2 section, the term ‘Federal student loan’ means any loan
3 made under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965
4 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.).”.

5 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
6 of subchapter II of chapter 30 of such title is amended
7 by inserting after the item relating to section 3020 the
8 following new item:

 “3020B. Use of educational assistance benefits for the repayment of Federal
 student loans for certain courses of education.”.

9 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 3020B of title 38,
10 United States Code, as added by subsection (a) shall apply
11 with respect to educational assistance paid for months be-
12 ginning after the date that is two years after the date of
13 the enactment of this Act.

14 **SEC. 9. OPPORTUNITY TO WITHDRAW ELECTION NOT TO**
15 **ENROLL IN EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PRO-**
16 **GRAM.**

17 (a) BASIC EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR ACTIVE
18 DUTY SERVICE.—

19 (1) OPPORTUNITY TO WITHDRAW.—Subsection
20 (c) of section 3011 of title 38, United States Code,
21 is amended by adding at the end the following new
22 paragraph:

23 “(4) An individual who makes an election not to re-
24 ceive educational assistance under paragraph (1) may

1 withdraw that election at any time and, after making such
2 withdrawal, shall be entitled to educational assistance
3 under this chapter in the same manner as if the individual
4 had never made that election, if—

5 “(A) at the time the individual makes such
6 withdrawal, the individual is serving on active duty
7 as a member of the Armed Forces; and

8 “(B) the basic pay of the individual is reduced
9 by, or the individual otherwise pays to the Secretary,
10 \$1,200 by not later than 90 days after the date on
11 which the individual is discharged or released from
12 active duty in the Armed Forces.”.

13 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (1)
14 of such subsection is amended in the third sentence
15 by striking “Any individual” and inserting “Except
16 as provided in paragraph (4), any individual”.

17 (b) BASIC EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR SERVICE
18 IN THE SELECTED RESERVE.—

19 (1) OPPORTUNITY TO WITHDRAW.—Subsection
20 (d) of section 3012 of title 38, United States Code,
21 is amended by adding at the end the following new
22 paragraph:

23 “(4) An individual who makes an election not to re-
24 ceive educational assistance under paragraph (1) may
25 withdraw that election at any time and, after making such

1 withdrawal, shall be entitled to educational assistance
2 under this chapter in the same manner as if the individual
3 had never made that election, if—

4 “(A) at the time the individual makes such
5 withdrawal, the individual is serving on active duty
6 as a member of the Armed Forces; and

7 “(B) the basic pay of the individual is reduced
8 by, or the individual otherwise pays to the Secretary,
9 \$1,200 by not later than 90 days after the date on
10 which the individual is discharged or released from
11 active duty in the Armed Forces.”.

12 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (1)
13 of such subsection is amended in the third sentence
14 by striking “Any individual” and inserting “Except
15 as provided in paragraph (4), any individual”.

16 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
17 subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on the date that
18 is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and
19 shall apply with respect to an individual who is serving
20 on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces on or
21 after that date.

1 **SEC. 10. MONTGOMERY GI BILL BENEFITS NOT TO REDUCE**
2 **FINANCIAL AID.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 480(j) of the Higher Edu-
4 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087vv(j)) Act is amend-
5 ed—

6 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “including vet-
7 erans’ education benefits as defined in subsection
8 (c),” and inserting “including, subject to paragraph
9 (4), veterans’ education benefits as defined in sub-
10 section (c),”; and

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

13 “(4) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), estimated fi-
14 nancial assistance not received under this title shall not
15 include any veterans’ benefits paid under chapter 30 of
16 title 38, United States Code.”.

17 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
18 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 90 days
19 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

20 **SEC. 11. EXTENSION OF INCREASE IN BENEFIT FOR CER-**
21 **TAIN INDIVIDUALS PURSUING APPRENTICE-**
22 **SHIPS OR ON-JOB TRAINING.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 103 of the Veterans Earn
24 and Learn Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-454; 38 U.S.C.
25 3032 note) is amended by striking “January 1, 2008”
26 each place it appears and inserting “January 1, 2014”.

1 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
2 this section shall take effect on the date that is 90 days
3 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

4 **SEC. 12. MODIFICATION OF AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR REIM-**
5 **BURSEMENT OF STATE AND LOCAL AGEN-**
6 **CIES ADMINISTERING VETERANS EDUCATION**
7 **BENEFITS.**

8 Section 3674(a)(4) of title 38, United States Code,
9 is amended by striking “may not exceed \$13,000,000”
10 and all that follows through the end and inserting “shall
11 be \$19,000,000.”.

12 **SEC. 13. PROVISION OF BASIC EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**
13 **BENEFITS FOR VETERANS DISCHARGED**
14 **FROM ACTIVE DUTY WITH GENERAL DIS-**
15 **CHARGE.**

16 (a) ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE.—Section 3011(a)(3)(B)
17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting
18 “or a general discharge (under honorable conditions)” be-
19 fore the semicolon at the end.

20 (b) SERVICE IN SELECTED RESERVE.—Section
21 3012(a)(3)(A) of such title is amended by inserting “or
22 a general discharge (under honorable conditions)” before
23 the semicolon.

24 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
25 subsections (a) and (b) shall apply with respect to an indi-

1 vidual who is discharged from service in the Armed Forces
2 after the date that is 90 days after the date of the enact-
3 ment of this Act.

4 **SEC. 14. INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF REPORTING FEE PAY-**
5 **ABLE TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT**
6 **ENROLL VETERANS RECEIVING EDU-**
7 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE.**

8 (a) INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF FEE.—Subsection (c)
9 of section 3684 of title 38, United States Code, is amend-
10 ed—

11 (1) by striking “\$7” and inserting “\$21”; and

12 (2) by striking “\$11” and inserting “\$21”.

13 (b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Subsection (a) of
14 such section is amended by striking the second comma
15 after “34”.

16 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
17 subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on the date that
18 is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

19 **SEC. 15. PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL AREAS OF WORK-**
20 **STUDY FOR VETERANS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a)(4) of section 3485
22 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at
23 the end the following new subparagraph:

24 “(G) The provision of placement services de-
25 scribed in section 3104(a)(5) of this title at an edu-

1 cational institution carried out under the supervision
2 of a Department employee.”.

3 (b) WORK STUDY FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED ON
4 HALF-TIME BASIS.—Subsection (b) of such section is
5 amended—

6 (1) in the first sentence, by striking “three-
7 quarters” and inserting “half”; and

8 (2) in the third sentence, by striking “three-
9 quarter-time” and inserting “half-time”.

10 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
11 this section shall apply with respect to agreements entered
12 into under section 3485 of title 38, United States Code,
13 after the date that is 90 days after the date of the enact-
14 ment of this Act.

15 **SEC. 16. 5-YEAR PILOT PROGRAM FOR ON-CAMPUS WORK-**
16 **STUDY POSITIONS.**

17 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.—Begin-
18 ning not later than two years after the date of the enact-
19 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
20 conduct a five-year pilot project to test the feasibility and
21 advisability of expanding the scope of qualifying work-
22 study activities under subsection (a)(4) of section 3485
23 of title 38, United States Code, including work-study posi-
24 tions available on site at educational institutions.

1 (b) TYPE OF WORK-STUDY POSITIONS.—The work-
2 study positions referred to in subsection (a) may include
3 positions in academic departments (including positions as
4 tutors or research, teaching, and lab assistants) and in
5 student services (including positions in career centers and
6 financial aid, campus orientation, cashiers, admissions,
7 records, and registration offices).

8 (c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe
9 regulations to carry out the pilot project under this sec-
10 tion, including regulations providing for the supervision of
11 work-study positions referred to in subsection (a) by ap-
12 propriate personnel.

13 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
14 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary
15 \$10,000,000 for each of the fiscal years during which the
16 Secretary carries out the pilot project under this section.

17 **SEC. 17. INCREASE IN EMPLOYEES FOR EDUCATION SERV-**
18 **ICE.**

19 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase the
20 number of full-time employees of the Education Service
21 of the Department of Veterans Affairs by 150 additional
22 such employees.

1 **SEC. 18. UPGRADE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION TECH-**
2 **NOLOGY.**

3 (a) ACTION PLAN REQUIRED.—The Chief Informa-
4 tion Officer of the Department of Veterans Affairs, in co-
5 ordination with the Director of the Department of Vet-
6 erans Affairs Education Service, shall submit to the Com-
7 mittees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of
8 Representatives and action plan describing how the Chief
9 Information Officer and Director of the Department of
10 Veterans Affairs Education Service intend to upgrade the
11 information technology system of the Department of Vet-
12 eran Affairs that is used in connection with the adminis-
13 tration of educational benefits under laws administered by
14 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The Chief Information
15 Officer and Director of the Department of Veterans Af-
16 fairs Education Service shall update the committees at
17 least annually on any progress made in upgrading such
18 system.

19 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
20 authorized to be appropriated to upgrade the information
21 technology system of the Department of Veteran Affairs
22 that is used in connection with the administration of edu-
23 cational benefits under laws administered by the Secretary
24 of Veterans Affairs—

25 (1) \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2009; and

1 (2) \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010,
2 2011, and 2012.

3 **SEC. 19. MODIFICATION OF ADVANCE PAYMENT OF INITIAL**
4 **EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE OR SUBSISTENCE**
5 **ALLOWANCE.**

6 (a) **MODIFICATION.**—Section 3680(d)(2) of title 38,
7 United States Code, is amended by inserting after the
8 third sentence the following new sentence: “For purposes
9 of the entitlement to educational assistance of the veteran
10 or person receiving an advance payment under this sub-
11 section, the advance payment shall be charged against the
12 final month of the entitlement of the person or veteran
13 and, if necessary, the penultimate such month. In no event
14 may any veteran or person receive more than one advance
15 payment under this subsection during any academic
16 year.”.

17 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by
18 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to an advance pay-
19 ment of educational assistance made after the date that
20 is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 20. MODIFICATION OF PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY APPLI-**
2 **CABLE TO CERTAIN SPOUSES OF INDIVID-**
3 **UALS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED TOTAL DIS-**
4 **ABILITIES PERMANENT IN NATURE.**

5 Section 3512(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code,
6 is amended—

7 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “subpara-

8 graph (B) or (C)” and inserting “subparagraphs

9 (B), (C), and (D)”; and

10 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-

11 paragraph:

12 “(D) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), an eligible

13 person referred to in that subparagraph who is made eligi-

14 ble under section 3501(a)(1)(D)(i) of this title by reason

15 of a service-connected disability that was determined to

16 be a total disability permanent in nature not later than

17 three years after discharge from service may be afforded

18 educational assistance under this chapter during the 20-

19 year period beginning on the date the disability was so

20 determined to be a total disability permanent in nature,

21 but only if the eligible person remains the spouse of the

22 disabled person throughout the period.”.

1 **SEC. 21. CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS**
2 **AND PAYMENTS IN CALCULATING ENTITLE-**
3 **MENT CHARGE FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS OF**
4 **EDUCATION.**

5 (a) TUITION ASSISTANCE.—Section 3014(b)(2)(C) is
6 amended by striking “or (e)(1) of section 3015 of this
7 title,” and inserting “(e)(1), or (g) of section 3015 of this
8 title, or section 16131(i) of title 10,”.

9 (b) FLIGHT TRAINING.—Section 3032(e)(3) is
10 amended by striking “or (e)(1) of section 3015 of this
11 title,” and inserting “(e)(1), or (g) of section 3015 of this
12 title, or section 16131(i) of title 10,”.

13 (c) LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION TESTS.—Section
14 3032(f)(2) is amended by striking “or (e)(1) of section
15 3015 of this title,” and inserting “(e)(1), or (g) of section
16 3015 of this title, or section 16131(i) of title 10,”.

17 **SEC. 22. EXPANSION OF PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION ELIGI-**
18 **BLE FOR ACCELERATED PAYMENTS OF EDU-**
19 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE UNDER LAWS ADMIN-**
20 **ISTERED BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AF-**
21 **FAIRS.**

22 (a) COMMERCIAL DRIVER’S LICENSE TRAINING PRO-
23 GRAMS.—Subsection (b)(1) of section 3014A of title 38,
24 United States Code, is amended—

25 (1) by inserting “(A)” after “that leads to”;
26 and

1 (2) by inserting before the semicolon at the end
2 the following: “or (B) employment as an operator of
3 a commercial motor vehicle (as defined in section
4 31301(4) of title 49)”.

5 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

6 (1) HEADING.—The heading of section 3014A
7 of such title is amended by adding at the end the
8 following: “**and employment in certain**
9 **other occupations**”.

10 (2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections
11 at the beginning of chapter 30 of such title is
12 amended in the item relating to section 3014A by
13 inserting before the period at the end the following:
 “and employment in certain other occupations”.

14 **SEC. 23. INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF EDUCATIONAL ASSIST-**
15 **ANCE FOR MEMBERS OF THE SELECTED RE-**
16 **SERVE AND RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS**
17 **SUPPORTING CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS**
18 **AND CERTAIN OTHER OPERATIONS.**

19 (a) MEMBERS OF THE SELECTED RESERVE.—Sec-
20 tion 16131(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amend-
21 ed—

22 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “at the fol-
23 lowing rates” and all that follows through the end
24 and inserting a period;

25 (2) by striking paragraph (2);

1 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
2 lowing new paragraphs:

3 “(2) The educational assistance allowance provided
4 under this subchapter shall be based on the applicable per-
5 cent under paragraph (4) of the applicable rate provided
6 under section 3015 of title 38 for a member whose entitle-
7 ment is based on completion of an obligated period of ac-
8 tive duty of three years.

9 “(3) The educational assistance allowance provided
10 under this section for a person who is undertaking a pro-
11 gram for which a reduced rate is specified in chapter 30
12 of such title, that rate shall be further adjusted by the
13 applicable percent specified in paragraph (4).

14 “(4) The adjusted educational assistance allowance
15 under paragraph (2) or (3), as applicable, shall be 47 per-
16 cent.”.

17 (b) RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS SUPPORTING
18 CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS AND CERTAIN OTHER OPER-
19 ATIONS.—Paragraph (4) of section 16162(c) of title 10,
20 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

21 “(4) The adjusted educational assistance allowance
22 under paragraph (2) or (3), as applicable, shall be—

23 “(A) 50 percent in the case of a member of a
24 reserve component who performed active service for

1 90 cumulative days but less than 180 cumulative
2 days;

3 “(B) 55 percent in the case of a member of a
4 reserve component who performed active service for
5 180 cumulative days but less than 365 cumulative
6 days;

7 “(C) 60 percent in the case of a member of a
8 reserve component who performed active service for
9 365 cumulative days but less than 545 cumulative
10 days;

11 “(D) 70 percent in the case of a member of a
12 reserve component who performed active service for
13 545 cumulative days but less than 730 cumulative
14 days;

15 “(E) 80 percent in the case of a member of a
16 reserve component who performed active service for
17 730 cumulative days but less than 910 cumulative
18 days;

19 “(F) 90 percent in the case of a member of a
20 reserve component who performed active service for
21 910 cumulative days but less than 1095 cumulative
22 days; and

23 “(G) 100 percent in the case of a member of
24 a reserve component who performed active service
25 for 1095 cumulative days or more.”.