

Union Calendar No. 179

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3218

[Report No. 115–247, Part I]

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

JULY 13, 2017

Mr. ROE of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. WALZ, Mr. MCCARTHY, Mr. MESSER, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. BANKS of Indiana, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. COOK, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. BOST, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. DUNN, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. O'ROURKE, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CORREA, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. TITUS, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. RICHMOND, and Mr. COURTNEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, 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

JULY 24, 2017

Additional sponsors: Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. TSONGAS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. KIND, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. HECK, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. ISSA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. COSTA, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. NADLER, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. HURD, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. POSEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. BEYER, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. BERA, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER

JULY 24, 2017

Reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

JULY 24, 2017

The Committee on Armed Services discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on July 13, 2017]

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”.*

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.

TITLE I—POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Sec. 101. Consideration of certain time spent receiving medical care from Sec-
retary of Defense as active duty for purposes of eligibility for
Post-9/11 Educational Assistance.

Sec. 102. Educational assistance under Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Pro-
gram for members of the Armed Forces awarded the Purple
Heart.

Sec. 103. Inclusion of Fry Scholarship recipients and Purple Heart recipients in
Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program.

Sec. 104. Consolidation of certain eligibility tiers under Post-9/11 Educational
Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 105. Eligibility for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance for certain members of
reserve components of Armed Forces who lost entitlement to edu-
cational assistance under Reserve Educational Assistance Pro-
gram.

Sec. 106. Calculation of monthly housing stipend under Post-9/11 Educational
Assistance Program based on location of campus where classes
are attended.

Sec. 107. Change to entitlement for certain licensure and certification tests and
national tests under Department of Veterans Affairs Post-9/11
Educational Assistance Program.

Sec. 108. Restoration of entitlement to educational assistance and other relief for
veterans affected by school closure or disapproval.

Sec. 109. Additional authorized transfer of unused Post-9/11 Educational Assist-
ance 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 elimi-
nation 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 adminis-
tration of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 114. Department of Veterans Affairs high technology pilot program.

Sec. 115. Annual reports to Congress on information on student progress submitted by educational institutions.

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.

Sec. 502. Reconsideration of previously denied claims for disability compensation for veterans who allege full-body exposure to nitrogen mustard gas, sulfur mustard gas, or Lewisite during World War II.

1 SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.

2 *Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in*
 3 *this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of*
 4 *an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision,*

1 *the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or*
2 *other provision of title 38, United States Code.*

3 **TITLE I—POST-9/11 EDU-**
4 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE PRO-**
5 **GRAM**

6 **SEC. 101. CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN TIME SPENT RE-**
7 **CEIVING MEDICAL CARE FROM SECRETARY**
8 **OF DEFENSE AS ACTIVE DUTY FOR PURPOSES**
9 **OF ELIGIBILITY FOR POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL**
10 **ASSISTANCE.**

11 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3301(1)(B) is amended by*
12 *inserting “12301(h),” after “12301(g).”*

13 *(b) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.—The amendment*
14 *made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to service*
15 *in the Armed Forces occurring on or after September 11,*
16 *2001.*

17 *(c) APPLICATION WITH RESPECT TO USE OF ENTITLE-*
18 *MENT.—An individual who is entitled to educational assist-*
19 *ance by reason of the amendment made by subsection (a)*
20 *may use such entitlement to pursue a course of education*
21 *beginning on or after August 1, 2018.*

1 **SEC. 102. EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE UNDER POST-9/11**
2 **EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR**
3 **MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AWARDED**
4 **THE PURPLE HEART.**

5 (a) *ELIGIBILITY.*—Section 3311(b) is amended by add-
6 ing at the end the following new paragraph:

7 “(10) An individual who is awarded the Purple
8 Heart for service in the Armed Forces occurring on
9 or after September 11, 2001, and continues to serve
10 on active duty in the Armed Forces or is discharged
11 or released from active duty as described in subsection
12 (c).”.

13 (b) *AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.*—Section 3313(c)(1) is
14 amended by striking “or (9)” and inserting “(9), or (10)”.

15 (c) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendments made by this
16 section shall take effect on August 1, 2018.

17 **SEC. 103. INCLUSION OF FRY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**
18 **AND PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS IN YELLOW**
19 **RIBBON G.I. EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT PRO-**
20 **GRAM.**

21 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 3317(a) is amended in the
22 second sentence by striking “paragraphs (1) and (2)” and
23 inserting “paragraphs (1), (2), (9), and (10)”.

24 (b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendment made by sub-
25 section (a) shall take effect on August 1, 2018.

1 **SEC. 104. CONSOLIDATION OF CERTAIN ELIGIBILITY TIERS**
2 **UNDER POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**
3 **PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
4 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

5 (a) *ENTITLEMENT.*—Section 3311(b), as amended by
6 section 102, is further amended—

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

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

10 (3) by redesignating paragraphs (8), (9), and
11 (10) as paragraphs (7), (8), and (9), respectively.

12 (b) *AMOUNT OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.*—Section
13 3313(c) is amended by striking paragraph (7).

14 (c) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.*—Chapter 33 is fur-
15 ther amended as follows:

16 (1) In section 3311(f), by striking “paragraph
17 (9)” each place it appears and inserting “paragraph
18 (8)”.

19 (2) In section 3313, as amended by section
20 102—

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

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

26 (C) in subsection (e)(2)(C)—

1 (i) by striking “paragraphs (3)
2 through (8)” and inserting “paragraphs (3)
3 through (7)”; and

4 (ii) by striking “paragraphs (2)
5 through (7)” and inserting “paragraphs (2)
6 through (6)”.

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

10 (E) in subsection (g)(3)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (A)(iv)—

12 (I) by striking “paragraphs (3)
13 through (8)” and inserting “para-
14 graphs (3) through (7)”; and

15 (II) by striking “paragraphs (2)
16 through (7)” and inserting “para-
17 graphs (2) through (6)”;

18 (ii) in subparagraph (B)(iii)—

19 (I) by striking “paragraphs (3)
20 through (8)” and inserting “para-
21 graphs (3) through (7)”; and

22 (II) by striking “paragraphs (2)
23 through (7)” and inserting “para-
24 graphs (2) through (6)”;

25 (iii) in subparagraph (C)(ii)—

1 (I) in subclause (I), by striking
2 “(9)” and inserting “(8)”; and
3 (II) in subclause (II)—
4 (aa) by striking “paragraphs
5 (3) through (8)” and inserting
6 “paragraphs (3) through (7)”;
7 and
8 (bb) by striking “paragraphs
9 (2) through (7)” and inserting
10 “paragraphs (2) through (6)”;
11 and
12 (iv) in subparagraph (D)(ii)—
13 (I) in subclause (I), by striking
14 “(9)” and inserting “(8)”; and
15 (II) in subclause (II)—
16 (aa) by striking “paragraphs
17 (3) through (8)” and inserting
18 “paragraphs (3) through (7)”;
19 and
20 (bb) by striking “paragraphs
21 (2) through (7)” and inserting
22 “paragraphs (2) through (6)”;
23 and

1 (F) in subsection (h), by striking “para-
2 graphs (2) through (7)” and inserting “para-
3 graphs (2) through (6)”;

4 (3) In section 3316—

5 (A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “para-
6 graphs (2) through (7)” and inserting “para-
7 graphs (2) through (6)”;

8 (B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “para-
9 graphs (2) through (7)” and inserting “para-
10 graphs (2) through (6)”.

11 (4) In section 3317(a), in the second sentence, as
12 amended by section 103, by striking “paragraphs (1),
13 (2), (9), and (10)” and inserting “paragraphs (1),
14 (2), (8), and (9)”.

15 (5) In section 3321(b)(4), as amended by section
16 111, by striking “section 3311(b)(9)” and inserting
17 “section 3311(b)(8)”.

18 (6) In section 3322—

19 (A) in subsection (e), by striking
20 “3311(b)(9)” and inserting “3311(b)(8)”;

21 (B) in subsection (f), by striking
22 “3311(b)(9)” and inserting “3311(b)(8)”;

23 (C) in subsection (h)(2), by striking
24 “3311(b)(9)” and inserting “3311(b)(8)”.

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

3 (d) *EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this*
4 *section shall take effect on August 1, 2020.*

5 **SEC. 105. ELIGIBILITY FOR POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSIST-**
6 **ANCE FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF RESERVE**
7 **COMPONENTS OF ARMED FORCES WHO LOST**
8 **ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**
9 **UNDER RESERVE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**
10 **PROGRAM.**

11 (a) *ELECTION.—Section 16167 of title 10, United*
12 *States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following*
13 *new subsection:*

14 “*(c) ELIGIBILITY FOR POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL AS-*
15 *SISTANCE.—A member who loses eligibility for benefits*
16 *under this chapter pursuant to subsection (b) shall be al-*
17 *lowed to elect (in such form and manner as the Secretary*
18 *of Veterans Affairs may prescribe) to have such service pre-*
19 *viously credited toward this chapter credited towards estab-*
20 *lishing eligibility for educational assistance under chapter*
21 *33 of title 38, notwithstanding the provisions of section*
22 *16163(e) of this title or section 3322(h)(1) of title 38.”.*

23 (b) *QUALIFICATION OF SERVICE.—Section 3301(1) of*
24 *title 38, United States Code, shall be construed to include,*
25 *in the case of a member of a reserve component of the Armed*

1 *Forces who, before November 25, 2015, established eligibility*
2 *for educational assistance under chapter 1607 of title 10,*
3 *United States Code, pursuant to section 16163(a)(1) of such*
4 *title, but lost eligibility for such educational assistance pur-*
5 *suant to section 16167(b) of such title, service on active duty*
6 *(as defined in section 101 of such title) that satisfies the*
7 *requirements of section 16163(a)(1) of such title.*

8 (c) *ENTITLEMENT.*—Section 3311(b)(6) of title 38,
9 *United States Code, as amended by section 104(a), shall*
10 *be construed to include an individual who, before November*
11 *25, 2015, established eligibility for educational assistance*
12 *under chapter 1607 of title 10, United States Code, pursu-*
13 *ant to section 16163(b) of such title, but lost such eligibility*
14 *pursuant to section 16167(b) of such title.*

15 (d) *DURATION.*—Notwithstanding section 3312 of title
16 38, *United States Code, an individual who establishes eligi-*
17 *bility for educational assistance under chapter 33 of such*
18 *title by crediting towards such chapter service previously*
19 *credited towards chapter 1607 of title 10, United States*
20 *Code, is only entitled to a number of months of educational*
21 *assistance under section 3313 of title 38, United States*
22 *Code, equal to the number of months of entitlement remain-*
23 *ing under chapter 1607 of title 10, United States Code, at*
24 *the time of conversion to chapter 33 of title 38, United*
25 *States Code.*

1 **SEC. 106. CALCULATION OF MONTHLY HOUSING STIPEND**
 2 **UNDER POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**
 3 **PROGRAM BASED ON LOCATION OF CAMPUS**
 4 **WHERE CLASSES ARE ATTENDED.**

5 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 3313(c)(1)(B)(i)(I) is
 6 amended by striking “the institution of higher learning at
 7 which the individual is enrolled” and inserting “the cam-
 8 pus of the institution of higher learning where the indi-
 9 vidual physically participates in a majority of classes”.

10 (b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendment made by sub-
 11 section (a) shall apply with respect to initial enrollment
 12 in a program of education on or after August 1, 2018.

13 **SEC. 107. CHARGE TO ENTITLEMENT FOR CERTAIN LICEN-**
 14 **SURE AND CERTIFICATION TESTS AND NA-**
 15 **TIONAL TESTS UNDER DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
 16 **ERANS AFFAIRS POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL AS-**
 17 **SISTANCE PROGRAM.**

18 (a) *LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION TESTS.*—Sub-
 19 section (c) of section 3315 is amended—

20 (1) by striking “shall be determined at the rate
 21 of one month (rounded to the nearest whole month)”
 22 and inserting “shall be pro-rated based on the actual
 23 amount of the fee charged for the test relative to the
 24 rate for one month”; and

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

1 **(b) NATIONAL TESTS.**—*Section 3315A is amended—*

2 *(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the*
3 *following new paragraph:*

4 *“(3) A national test that evaluates prior learn-*
5 *ing and knowledge and provides an opportunity for*
6 *course credit at an institution of higher learning as*
7 *so described.”; and*

8 *(2) in subsection (c)—*

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

14 *(B) by striking “for each amount paid that*
15 *equals” and inserting “payable”.*

16 **(c) TESTS INCLUDED.**—*Section 3452(b) is amended in*
17 *the last sentence—*

18 *(1) by striking “and national tests providing”*
19 *and inserting “, national tests providing”; and*

20 *(2) by inserting before the period at the end the*
21 *following: “, and national tests that evaluate prior*
22 *learning and knowledge and provides an opportunity*
23 *for course credit at an institution of higher learning”.*

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

1 **SEC. 108. RESTORATION OF ENTITLEMENT TO EDU-**
2 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND OTHER RELIEF**
3 **FOR VETERANS AFFECTED BY SCHOOL CLO-**
4 **SURE OR DISAPPROVAL.**

5 *(a) SCHOOL CLOSURE OR DISAPPROVAL.—*

6 *(1) RESTORATION OF ENTITLEMENT.—Chapter*
7 *36 is amended by adding at the end the following new*
8 *section:*

9 **“§3699. Effects of closure or disapproval of edu-**
10 **cational institution**

11 *“(a) CLOSURE OR DISAPPROVAL.—Any payment of*
12 *educational assistance described in subsection (b) shall*
13 *not—*

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

16 *“(2) be counted against the aggregate period for*
17 *which section 3695 of this title limits the receipt of*
18 *educational assistance by such individual.*

19 *“(b) EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE DESCRIBED.—Subject*
20 *to subsection (c), the payment of educational assistance de-*
21 *scribed in this paragraph is the payment of such assistance*
22 *to an individual for pursuit of a course or program of edu-*
23 *cation at an educational institution under chapters 30, 32,*
24 *33, or 35 of this title, or chapters 1606 or 1607 of title*
25 *10, if the Secretary determines that the individual—*

1 “(1) was forced to discontinue the pursuit of
2 such course or program as a result of—

3 “(A) the permanent closure of the edu-
4 cational institution; or

5 “(B) the disapproval of the course or a
6 course that is a necessary part of that program
7 under this chapter by reason of—

8 “(i) a provision of law enacted after
9 the date on which the individual enrolls at
10 such institution affecting the approval or
11 disapproval of courses under this chapter;
12 or

13 “(ii) after the date on which the indi-
14 vidual enrolls at such institution, the Sec-
15 retary prescribing or modifying regulations
16 or policies of the Department affecting such
17 approval or disapproval; and

18 “(2) did not receive credit or lost training time,
19 toward completion of the program of education being
20 so pursued.

21 “(c) *PERIOD NOT CHARGED.*—The period for which,
22 by reason of this subsection, educational assistance is not
23 charged against entitlement or counted toward the applica-
24 ble aggregate period under section 3695 of this title shall
25 not exceed the aggregate of—

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

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

8 “(d) *CONTINUING PURSUIT OF DISAPPROVED*
9 *COURSES.*—(1) *The Secretary may treat a course of edu-*
10 *cation that is disapproved under this chapter as being ap-*
11 *proved under this chapter with respect to an individual de-*
12 *scribed in paragraph (2) if the Secretary determines, on*
13 *a case-by-case basis, that—*

14 “(A) *such disapproval is the result of an action*
15 *described in clause (i) or (ii) of subsection (b)(1)(B);*
16 *and*

17 “(B) *continuing pursuing such course is in the*
18 *best interest of the individual.*

19 “(2) *An individual described in this paragraph is an*
20 *individual who is pursuing a course of education at an edu-*
21 *cational institution under chapters 30, 32, 33, or 35 of this*
22 *title, or chapters 1606 or 1607 of title 10, as of the date*
23 *on which the course is disapproved under this chapter.”.*

24 (2) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—*The table of sec-*
25 *tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended by*

1 *inserting after the item relating to section 3698 the*
2 *following new item:*

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

3 *(b) MONTHLY HOUSING STIPEND.—*

4 *(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) section 3680 is*
5 *amended—*

6 *(A) by striking the matter after paragraph*
7 *(3)(B);*

8 *(B) in paragraph (3), by redesignating sub-*
9 *paragraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii),*
10 *respectively;*

11 *(C) by redesignating paragraphs (1)*
12 *through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C),*
13 *respectively;*

14 *(D) in the matter preceding subparagraph*
15 *(A), as redesignated, in the first sentence, by*
16 *striking “Payment of” and inserting “(1) Except*
17 *as provided in paragraph (2), payment of”; and*

18 *(E) by adding at the end the following new*
19 *paragraph (2):*

20 *“(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary*
21 *may, pursuant to such regulations as the Secretary shall*
22 *prescribe, continue to pay allowances to eligible veterans*
23 *and eligible persons enrolled in courses set forth in para-*
24 *graph (1)(A)—*

1 “(A) during periods when educational institu-
2 tions are temporarily closed under an established pol-
3 icy based on an Executive order of the President or
4 due to an emergency situation, except that the total
5 number of weeks for which allowances may continue
6 to be so payable in any 12-month period may not ex-
7 ceed four weeks; or

8 “(B) solely for the purpose of awarding a month-
9 ly housing stipend described in section 3313 of this
10 title, during periods following a permanent closure of
11 an educational institution, or following the dis-
12 approval of a course of study described in section
13 3699(b)(1)(B) of this title, except that payment of
14 such a stipend may only be continued until the ear-
15 lier of—

16 “(i) the date of the end of the term, quarter,
17 or semester during which the closure or dis-
18 approval occurred; and

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

21 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph
22 (1)(C)(ii) of such subsection, as redesignated, is
23 amended by striking “described in subclause (A) of
24 this clause” and inserting “described in clause (i)”.

25 (c) APPLICABILITY.—

1 (1) *SCHOOL CLOSURE OR DISAPPROVAL.*—

2 (A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The amendments made*
3 *by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date*
4 *that is 90 days after the date of the enactment*
5 *of this Act, and shall apply with respect to*
6 *courses and programs of education discontinued*
7 *as described in section 3699 of title 38, United*
8 *States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), after*
9 *January 1, 2015.*

10 (B) *SPECIAL APPLICATION.*—*With respect to*
11 *courses and programs of education discontinued*
12 *as described in section 3699 of title 38, United*
13 *States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), dur-*
14 *ing the period beginning January 1, 2015, and*
15 *ending on the date of the enactment of this Act,*
16 *an individual who is unable to transfer credits*
17 *from such program of education shall be deemed*
18 *to be an individual who did not receive such*
19 *credits, as described in subsection (b)(2) of such*
20 *section. In carrying out this paragraph, the Sec-*
21 *retary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with*
22 *the Secretary of Education, shall establish proce-*
23 *dures to determine whether credits are unable to*
24 *be transferred.*

1 (2) *MONTHLY HOUSING STIPEND.*—*The amend-*
 2 *ments made by subsection (b) shall take effect on Au-*
 3 *gust 1, 2018, and shall apply with respect to courses*
 4 *and programs of education discontinued as described*
 5 *in section 3699 of title 38, United States Code, as*
 6 *added by such subsection, on or after the date of the*
 7 *enactment of this Act.*

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

12 (a) *TRANSFER UPON DEATH OF DEPENDENT.*—*Sec-*
 13 *tion 3319 is amended—*

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

17 (2) *by adding at the end the following new sub-*
 18 *section:*

19 “(k) *ADDITIONAL TRANSFER UPON DEATH OF DE-*
 20 *PENDENT.*—*In the case of a dependent to whom entitlement*
 21 *to educational assistance is transferred under this section*
 22 *who dies before using all of such entitlement, the individual*
 23 *who transferred the entitlement to the dependent may trans-*
 24 *fer any remaining entitlement to a different eligible depend-*
 25 *ent, notwithstanding whether the individual is serving as*

1 *a member of the Armed Forces when such transfer is exe-*
 2 *cuted.*

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

10 (b) *EFFECTIVE DATES.*—

11 (1) *ELIGIBLE DEATHS.*—*The amendments made*
 12 *by this section shall apply with respect to deaths oc-*
 13 *curring on or after August 1, 2009.*

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

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

21 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Subchapter II of chapter 33 is*
 22 *amended by adding at the end the following new section:*

23 **“§ 3320. Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship**

24 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Subject to the limitation under*
 25 *subsection (f), the Secretary shall provide additional bene-*

1 *fits to eligible individuals selected by the Secretary under*
2 *this section. Such benefits shall be known as the ‘Edith*
3 *Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship’.*

4 “(b) *ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this section, an el-*
5 *igible individual is an individual—*

6 “(1) *who is or was entitled to educational assist-*
7 *ance under section 3311 of this title;*

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

13 “(3) *who applies for assistance under this sec-*
14 *tion; and*

15 “(4) *who—*

16 “(A) *is an individual who—*

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

22 “(I) *biological or biomedical*
23 *science;*

24 “(II) *physical science;*

1 “(III) science technologies or tech-
2 nicians;

3 “(IV) computer and information
4 science and support services;

5 “(V) mathematics or statistics;

6 “(VI) engineering;

7 “(VII) engineering technologies or
8 an engineering-related field;

9 “(VIII) a health profession or re-
10 lated program;

11 “(IX) a medical residency pro-
12 gram; or

13 “(X) an agriculture science pro-
14 gram or a natural resources science
15 program; and

16 “(ii) has completed at least 60 stand-
17 ard semester (or 90 quarter) credit hours in
18 a field referred to in clause (i); or

19 “(B) is an individual who has earned a
20 post-secondary degree in a field referred to in
21 subparagraph (A)(i) and is enrolled in a pro-
22 gram of education leading to a teaching certifi-
23 cation.

1 “(c) *PRIORITY.*—*In selecting eligible individuals to re-*
2 *ceive additional benefits under this section, the Secretary*
3 *shall give priority to the following individuals:*

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

6 “(2) *Individuals who are entitled to educational*
7 *assistance under this chapter by reason of paragraph*
8 *(1), (2), (8), or (9) of section 3311(b) of this title.*

9 “(d) *AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.*—(1) *The Secretary*
10 *shall pay to each eligible individual who receives additional*
11 *benefits under this section the monthly amount payable*
12 *under section 3313 of this title for not more than nine*
13 *months of the program of education in which the individual*
14 *is enrolled (adjusted with respect to the individual pursuant*
15 *to section 3313(c), as appropriate), except that the aggre-*
16 *gate amount paid to an individual under this section may*
17 *not exceed \$30,000.*

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

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

24 “(e) *PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER.*—*An individual who*
25 *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.—The*
 4 *total amount of benefits paid to all eligible individuals*
 5 *under this section may not exceed—*

6 “(1) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2019;

7 “(2) \$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020
 8 *through 2022; and*

9 “(3) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2023 and each
 10 *subsequent fiscal year.”*

11 (b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at*
 12 *the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after*
 13 *the item relating to section 3319 the following new item:*
 “3320. *Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship.*”

14 (c) *EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 3320 of title 38,*
 15 *United States Code, shall take effect on August 1, 2019.*

16 **SEC. 111. HONORING THE NATIONAL SERVICE OF MEMBERS**
 17 **OF THE ARMED FORCES BY ELIMINATION OF**
 18 **TIME LIMITATION FOR USE OF ENTITLEMENT.**

19 (a) *IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 3321*
 20 *amended—*

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

24 (2) *by adding at the end the following new para-*
 25 *graphs:*

1 “(1) in the case of an individual who first be-
2 comes entitled to such entitlement before January 1,
3 2013, expires at the end of the 15-year period begin-
4 ning on the date of such individual’s last discharge
5 or release from active duty; or

6 “(2) in the case of an individual who first be-
7 comes entitled to such entitlement on or after Janu-
8 ary 1, 2013, shall not expire.”.

9 (b) *CHILDREN OF DECEASED MEMBERS*.—Subsection
10 (b)(4) of such section is amended—

11 (1) by inserting “of this title” after
12 “3311(b)(9)”;

13 (2) by striking “child’s entitlement” and all that
14 follows through the period and inserting “child’s enti-
15 tlement—”; and

16 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
17 paragraphs:

18 “(A) in the case of a child who first becomes
19 entitled to such entitlement before January 1,
20 2013, expires at the end of the 15-year period be-
21 ginning on the date of such child’s eighteenth
22 birthday; or

23 “(B) in the case of a child who first becomes
24 entitled to such entitlement on or after January
25 1, 2013, 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 is further amended by
6 adding at the end the following new subsection:

7 “(j) *DETERMINATION OF MONTHLY STIPENDS DURING*
8 *CERTAIN ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE.*—

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

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

20 “(A) *a member of the reserve components of*
21 *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 AF-**
6 **FAIRS.**

7 *(a) PROCESSING OF CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL ASSIST-*
8 *ANCE CLAIMS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, to*
9 *the maximum extent possible, make such changes and im-*
10 *provements to the information technology system of the Vet-*
11 *erans Benefits Administration of the Department of Vet-*
12 *erans 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, are*
16 *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 days*
21 *after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary*
22 *of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a plan to im-*
23 *plement the changes and improvements described in sub-*
24 *section (a).*

1 (c) *REPORT.*—Not later than one year after the date
2 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Af-
3 fairs shall submit to Congress a report on the implementa-
4 tion 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 TECH-**
11 **NOLOGY 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 is
18 entitled to educational assistance under chapter 30, 32, 33,
19 34, or 35 of title 38, United States Code, or chapter 1606
20 or 1607 of title 10, United States Code.

21 (c) *CONTRACTS.*—

22 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—For purposes of carrying out
23 subsection (a), by not later than 180 days after Au-
24 gust 1, 2018, the Secretary shall seek to enter into
25 contracts with any number of qualified providers of

1 *high technology programs of education for the provi-*
2 *sion of such programs to eligible veterans under the*
3 *pilot program.*

4 (2) *PAYMENT OF CONTRACTORS.*—*A contract*
5 *under this subsection shall provide that the Secretary*
6 *shall pay to a provider—*

7 (A) *upon the enrollment of an eligible vet-*
8 *eran in the program, 25 percent of the cost of the*
9 *tuition and other fees for the program of edu-*
10 *cation for the veteran;*

11 (B) *upon the completion of the program by*
12 *the veteran, 25 percent of such cost; and*

13 (C) *upon the employment of the veteran in*
14 *the field of study of the program following com-*
15 *pletion of the program, 50 percent of such cost.*

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

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

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

24 (C) *the provider meets the approval criteria*
25 *developed by the Secretary under paragraph (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 agencies.*
5 *Such criteria is not required to meet the requirements*
6 *of section 3672 of title 38, United States Code.*

7 (5) *TUITION REIMBURSEMENT.*—*In entering into*
8 *contracts to carry out the pilot program, the Sec-*
9 *retary shall give preference to a qualified provider*
10 *that offers tuition reimbursement for any student*
11 *who—*

12 (A) *completes a program of education of-*
13 *fered by the provider; and*

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

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

23 (1) *of—*

24 (A) *in the case of a veteran pursuing resi-*
25 *dent training, the monthly amount of the basic*

1 allowance for housing payable under section 403
2 of title 37, United States Code, for a member
3 with dependents in pay grade E-5 residing in
4 the military housing area that encompasses all
5 or the majority portion of the ZIP code area in
6 which is located the institution at which the in-
7 dividual is enrolled; or

8 (B) in the case of a veteran pursuing a pro-
9 gram of education through distance learning, a
10 monthly amount equal to 50 percent of the
11 amount payable under subparagraph (A), multi-
12 plied by

13 (2) the lesser of—

14 (A) 1.0; or

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

21 (e) *HIGH TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM OF EDUCATION DE-*
22 *FINED.*—In this section, the term “high technology program
23 of education” means a program of education that—

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

1 (2) *does not lead to a degree; and*

2 (3) *provides instruction in computer program-*
3 *ming, computer software, media application, data*
4 *processing, or information sciences.*

5 (f) *REPORTS.—*

6 (1) *SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Not*
7 *later than one year after the date of the enactment of*
8 *this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall*
9 *submit to Congress a report on the pilot program*
10 *under this section.*

11 (2) *COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—*

12 (A) *INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than three*
13 *years after the date on which the Secretary first*
14 *enters into a contract under this section, the*
15 *Comptroller General of the United States shall*
16 *submit to Congress a report containing the re-*
17 *sults of the interim assessment of the Comptroller*
18 *General. Such report shall include the rec-*
19 *ommendations of the Comptroller General for*
20 *improving the pilot program and an assessment*
21 *of each of the following:*

22 (i) *The technology experience of the di-*
23 *rectors and instructors of the providers of*
24 *high technology programs of education*
25 *under the pilot program.*

1 (ii) Whether the providers cooperated
2 with the technology industry to create the
3 curriculum for the program of education.

4 (iii) Whether the providers use an open
5 source curriculum for the program of edu-
6 cation.

7 (iv) The admittance rate into the pilot
8 program.

9 (v) The job placement rate for veterans
10 who completed a program of education
11 under the pilot program in the field of
12 study of the program.

13 (vi) The average salary of veterans who
14 completed a program of education under the
15 pilot program and were subsequently em-
16 ployed.

17 (vii) The average age of veterans who
18 participated in the pilot program.

19 (B) *FINAL REPORT.*—Not later than five
20 years after the date on which the Secretary first
21 enters into a contract under this section, the
22 Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a
23 final report on the pilot program. Such report
24 shall include the recommendation of the Comp-
25 troller General with respect to whether the pro-

1 *gram should be extended and an assessment of*
2 *each of the following:*

3 *(i) Each item described in clauses (i)*
4 *through (vii) of subparagraph (A).*

5 *(ii) The percentage of veterans who*
6 *completed a program of education under the*
7 *pilot program who were subsequently em-*
8 *ployed for a period of six months or longer*
9 *in a field of study of the program.*

10 *(iii) The percentage of veterans who*
11 *completed a program of education under the*
12 *pilot program who were subsequently em-*
13 *ployed for a period of less than six months*
14 *in a field of study of the program.*

15 *(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For each*
16 *fiscal year during which the Secretary carries out a pilot*
17 *program under this section, \$15,000,000 shall be made*
18 *available for such purpose from funds appropriated to, or*
19 *otherwise made available to, the Department for the pay-*
20 *ment of readjustment benefits.*

21 *(h) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out a pilot*
22 *program under this section shall terminate on the date that*
23 *is five years after the date on which the Secretary first en-*
24 *ters into a contract under this section.*

1 **SEC. 115. ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS ON INFORMA-**
2 **TION ON STUDENT PROGRESS SUBMITTED BY**
3 **EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.**

4 *Section 3326 is amended—*

5 *(1) by striking “As a condition” and inserting*
6 *“(a) SUBMITTAL OF INFORMATION BY EDUCATIONAL*
7 *INSTITUTIONS.—As a condition” ; and*

8 *(2) by adding at the end the following new sub-*
9 *section:*

10 *“(b) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than March*
11 *1 of each year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a*
12 *report that includes a summary of the information provided*
13 *by educational institutions under subsection (a) for the cal-*
14 *endar year preceding the year during which such report is*
15 *submitted.”.*

16 **TITLE II—OTHER EDUCATIONAL**
17 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

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

19 *Section 3485(a)(4) is amended by striking “the period*
20 *beginning on June 30, 2017, and ending on June 30, 2022,”*
21 *each place it appears and inserting “any time on or after*
22 *June 30, 2017,”.*

23 **SEC. 202. DURATION OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE UNDER**
24 **SURVIVORS’ AND DEPENDENTS’ EDU-**
25 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

26 *Section 3511(a)(1) is amended—*

1 (1) by striking “chapter for” and all that follows
2 through the period and inserting “chapter—”; and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
4 paragraphs:

5 “(A) in the case of a person who first enrolls in
6 a program of education using such entitlement before
7 August 1, 2018, for an aggregate period not in excess
8 of 45 months (or to the equivalent thereof in part-
9 time training); or

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

15 **SEC. 203. OLIN E. TEAGUE INCREASE IN AMOUNTS OF EDU-**
16 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE PAYABLE UNDER SUR-**
17 **VIVORS’ AND DEPENDENTS’ EDUCATIONAL**
18 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

19 (a) INCREASE.—Section 3532 is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (a)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1)—

22 (i) by striking “\$788” and inserting
23 “\$1,224”;

24 (ii) by striking “\$592” and inserting
25 “\$967”; and

1 (iii) by striking “\$394” and inserting
 2 “\$710”; and
 3 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking
 4 “\$788” and inserting “\$1,224”; and
 5 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “\$788” and in-
 6 serting “\$1,224”.

7 (b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendments made by sub-
 8 section (a) shall apply with respect to a month that begins
 9 on or after October 1, 2018.

10 **TITLE III—ADMINISTRATION OF**
 11 **EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**
 12 **PROGRAMS**

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

14 (a) *INCREASE.*—Section 3674(a) of title 38, United
 15 States Code, is amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “out of
 17 amounts available for the payment of readjustment
 18 benefits” and inserting “out of amounts in the De-
 19 partment of Veterans Affairs readjustment benefits ac-
 20 count and amounts appropriated to the Secretary”;

21 (2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-
 22 graph (5);

23 (3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
 24 lowing new paragraph (4):

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

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

6 (A) *by striking “The total” and inserting*
7 *“(A) The total”;*

8 (B) *by striking “for any fiscal year shall be*
9 *\$19,000,000” and inserting “for fiscal year 2018*
10 *shall be \$21,000,000 and for fiscal year 2019*
11 *and thereafter shall be \$23,000,000”;* and

12 (C) *by adding at the end the following new*
13 *subparagraph:*

14 “(B) *Beginning in fiscal year 2019, whenever there is*
15 *an increase in benefit amounts payable under title II of*
16 *the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) as a result*
17 *of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act*
18 *(42 U.S.C. 415(i)), the Secretary shall, effective on the date*
19 *of such increase in benefit amounts, increase the amount*
20 *in effect under subparagraph (A), as in effect immediately*
21 *prior to the date of such increase in benefit amounts pay-*
22 *able under title II of the Social Security Act, by the same*
23 *percentage as the percentage by which such benefit amounts*
24 *are increased.*”.

1 **SEC. 302. AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF POST-9/11 EDU-**
2 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO PURSUE INDE-**
3 **PENDENT STUDY PROGRAMS AT CERTAIN**
4 **EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE NOT**
5 **INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING.**

6 *Paragraph (4) of section 3680A(a) is amended to read*
7 *as follows:*

8 *“(4) any independent study program except an*
9 *independent study program (including such a pro-*
10 *gram taken over open circuit television) that—*

11 *“(A) is accredited by a nationally recog-*
12 *nized accrediting agency; and*

13 *“(B) leads—*

14 *“(i) to a standard college degree;*

15 *“(ii) to a certificate that reflects edu-*
16 *cational attainment offered by an institu-*
17 *tion of higher learning; or*

18 *“(iii) to a certificate that reflects com-*
19 *pletion of a course of study offered by—*

20 *“(I) an area career and technical*
21 *education school (as defined in sub-*
22 *paragraphs (C) and (D) of section 3(3)*
23 *of the Carl D. Perkins Career and*
24 *Technical Education Act of 2006 (20*
25 *U.S.C. 2302(3))) that provides edu-*
26 *cation at the postsecondary level; or*

1 “(II) a postsecondary vocational
2 institution (as defined in section
3 102(c) of the Higher Education Act of
4 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(c))) that pro-
5 vides education at the postsecondary
6 level.”.

7 **SEC. 303. PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON PRIORITY EN-**
8 **ROLLMENT FOR VETERANS IN CERTAIN**
9 **COURSES OF EDUCATION.**

10 Section 3698(c)(1)(C) is amended—

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

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

14 (3) by adding at the end the following new
15 clause:

16 “(xi) information on whether the institution
17 administers a priority enrollment system that
18 allows certain student veterans to enroll in
19 courses earlier than other students.”.

20 **SEC. 304. LIMITATION ON USE OF REPORTING FEES PAY-**
21 **ABLE TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND**
22 **SPONSORS OF PROGRAMS OF APPRENTICE-**
23 **SHIP.**

24 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Subsection (c) of section 3684 is
25 amended to read as follows:

1 “(c)(1) *The Secretary may pay to any educational in-*
2 *stitution, or to the sponsor of a program of apprenticeship,*
3 *furnishing education or training under either this chapter*
4 *or chapter 31, 34, or 35 of this title, a reporting fee which*
5 *will be in lieu of any other compensation or reimbursement*
6 *for reports or certifications which such educational institu-*
7 *tion or sponsor of a program of apprenticeship is required*
8 *to submit to the Secretary by law or regulation.*

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

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

24 “(4) *Any reporting fee paid to an educational institu-*
25 *tion or sponsor of a program of apprenticeship after the*

1 *date of the enactment of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational*
2 *Assistance Improvements Act of 2011 (Public Law 111–*
3 *377)—*

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

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

14 “(5) *The reporting fee payable under this subsection*
15 *shall be paid from amounts appropriated for readjustment*
16 *benefits.”.*

17 **(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.**—*The amendment made by sub-*
18 *section (a) shall take effect on August 1, 2018.*

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

20 **(a) TRAINING REQUIREMENT.**—*The Secretary of Vet-*
21 *erans Affairs shall, in consultation with the State approv-*
22 *ing agencies, set forth requirements relating to training for*
23 *school certifying officials employed by covered educational*
24 *institutions offering courses of education approved under*
25 *chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code. If a covered edu-*

1 *ational institution does not ensure that a school certifying*
2 *official employed by the educational institution meets such*
3 *requirements, the Secretary may disapprove any course of*
4 *education offered by such educational institution.*

5 (b) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

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

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

14 (3) *The term “State approving agency” means a*
15 *department or agency of a State designated under sec-*
16 *tion 3671 of title 38, United States Code.*

17 (c) *EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect*
18 *on August 1, 2018.*

19 **SEC. 306. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR ADVISORY COM-**
20 **MITTEE ON EDUCATION.**

21 *Section 3692 is amended by striking “December 31,*
22 *2017” and inserting “December 31, 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 is amended by insert-
5 ing after section 3697A the following new section:

6 **“§ 3697B. On-campus educational and vocational**
7 **counseling**

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

15 “(b) *SELECTION OF LOCATIONS.*—(1) To be selected by
16 the Secretary under this section, an institution of higher
17 learning shall provide an appropriate space on the campus
18 of the institution where counseling services can be provided
19 under this section.

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

24 “(c) *ANNUAL REPORT.*—Not later than 180 days after
25 the date of the enactment of this section, and each year
26 thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report

1 *on the counseling services provided under this section. Such*
 2 *report shall include, for the year covered by the report—*

3 “(1) *the average ratio of counselors providing*
 4 *such services to individuals who received such services*
 5 *at each location where such services were provided;*

6 “(2) *a description of such services provided;*

7 “(3) *the recommendations of the Secretary for*
 8 *improving the provision of such services; and*

9 “(4) *any other matters the Secretary determines*
 10 *appropriate.”.*

11 **(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—*The table of sections at*
 12 *the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after*
 13 *the item relating to section 3697A the following new item:*
 “3697B. On-campus educational and vocational counseling.”.

14 **SEC. 308. PROVISION OF INFORMATION REGARDING VET-**
 15 **ERAN ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL AS-**
 16 **SISTANCE.**

17 **(a) IN GENERAL.**—*Subchapter II of chapter 36 is fur-*
 18 *ther amended by adding at the end the following new sec-*
 19 *tion:*

20 **“§ 3699A. Provision of certain information to edu-**
 21 **cational institutions**

22 **“(a) IN GENERAL.**—*For each veteran or other indi-*
 23 *vidual pursuing a course of education that has been ap-*
 24 *proved under this chapter using educational assistance to*
 25 *which the veteran or other individual is entitled under*

1 *chapter 30, 32, 33, or 35 of this title, the Secretary shall*
2 *make available to the educational institution offering the*
3 *course information about the amount of such educational*
4 *assistance to which the veteran or other individual is enti-*
5 *tled. Such information shall be provided to such educational*
6 *institution through a secure information technology system*
7 *accessible by the educational institution and shall be regu-*
8 *larly updated to reflect any amounts used by the veteran*
9 *or other individual.*

10 “(b) *ELECTION.*—*A veteran or other individual pur-*
11 *su-ing a course of education described in subsection (a) may*
12 *elect not to provide the information described in such sub-*
13 *section to an educational institution in a manner pre-*
14 *scribed by the Secretary.”.*

15 (b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—*The table of sections at*
16 *the beginning of such chapter is further amended by insert-*
17 *ing after the item relating to section 3699 the following new*
18 *item:*

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

19 (c) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—*Section 3699A of title 38,*
20 *United States Code, as added by this section, shall take ef-*
21 *fect on August 1, 2018.*

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

7 *Section 3684(a) is amended—*

8 *(1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-*
9 *graph (5); and*

10 *(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-*
11 *lowing new paragraph (4):*

12 *“(4) A course offered by an educational institution*
13 *that does not begin on the first day of an academic term,*
14 *but does begin seven or fewer days after such day, shall be*
15 *treated as beginning on such day for purposes of this sec-*
16 *tion.”.*

17 **TITLE IV—RESERVE**
18 **COMPONENT BENEFITS**

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

21 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3301(1)(B) is amended by*
22 *striking “or 12304” and inserting “12304, 12304a, or*
23 *12304b”.*

24 *(b) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.—The amendment*
25 *made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to service*
26 *in the Armed Forces occurring on or after the date of the*

1 *enactment of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance*
 2 *Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–252).*

3 (c) *APPLICATION WITH RESPECT TO USE OF ENTITLE-*
 4 *MENT.*—*An individual who is entitled to educational assist-*
 5 *ance by reason of the amendment made by subsection (a)*
 6 *may use such entitlement to pursue a course of education*
 7 *beginning on or after August 1, 2018.*

8 **SEC. 402. TIME LIMITATION FOR TRAINING AND REHABILI-**
 9 **TATION FOR VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CON-**
 10 **NECTED DISABILITIES.**

11 *Section 3103(f) is amended by striking “or 12304”*
 12 *and inserting “12304, 12304a, or 12304b”.*

13 **TITLE V—OTHER MATTERS**

14 **SEC. 501. REPEAL INAPPLICABILITY OF MODIFICATION OF**
 15 **BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING TO BENE-**
 16 **FITS UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY SEC-**
 17 **RETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

18 (a) *REPEAL.*—*Subsection (b) of section 604 of the Carl*
 19 *Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense*
 20 *Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-*
 21 *291; 37 U.S.C. 403 note) is repealed.*

22 (b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—*The amendment made by sub-*
 23 *section (a) shall take effect on January 1, 2018, and shall*
 24 *apply with respect to individuals who first use their entitle-*

1 *ment to educational assistance under chapter 33 of title 38,*
2 *United States Code, on or after such date.*

3 **SEC. 502. RECONSIDERATION OF PREVIOUSLY DENIED**
4 **CLAIMS FOR DISABILITY COMPENSATION FOR**
5 **VETERANS WHO ALLEGE FULL-BODY EXPO-**
6 **SURE TO NITROGEN MUSTARD GAS, SULFUR**
7 **MUSTARD GAS, OR LEWISITE DURING WORLD**
8 **WAR II.**

9 *(a) IN GENERAL.—*

10 *(1) RECONSIDERATION REQUIRED.—The Sec-*
11 *retary of Veterans Affairs shall reconsider all claims*
12 *for compensation described in paragraph (2) and*
13 *make a new determination regarding each such claim.*

14 *(2) CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION DESCRIBED.—A*
15 *claim for compensation described in this paragraph is*
16 *a claim for compensation under chapter 11 of title*
17 *38, United States Code, that the Secretary deter-*
18 *mines—*

19 *(A) arose from the alleged full-body exposure*
20 *of a veteran to a covered substance—*

21 *(I) during active military, naval, or*
22 *air service during World War II; and*

23 *(ii) at a site listed in paragraph (3);*
24 *and*

1 (B) was denied before the date of the enact-
2 ment of this Act.

3 (3) *SITES.*—The sites listed in this paragraph
4 are the following:

5 (A) *Camp Siebert, Alabama.*

6 (B) *Fort McClellan, Alabama.*

7 (C) *Huntsville Arsenal, Alabama.*

8 (D) *Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Colorado.*

9 (E) *Naval Research Laboratory, D.C.*

10 (F) *Bushnell Field, Florida.*

11 (G) *Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Il-*
12 *linois.*

13 (H) *Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland.*

14 (I) *Fort Detrick, Maryland.*

15 (J) *Naval Research Laboratory, Maryland.*

16 (K) *Naval Training Center, Bainbridge,*
17 *Maryland.*

18 (L) *Horn Island Installation, Mississippi.*

19 (M) *Camp Crowder, Missouri.*

20 (N) *Hart's Island, New York.*

21 (O) *Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.*

22 (P) *Charleston, South Carolina.*

23 (Q) *Dugway Proving Ground, Utah.*

24 (R) *Toole Army Depot, Utah.*

25 (S) *Naval Research Laboratory, Virginia.*

1 (T) *U.S.S. Eagle Boat No. 58.*

2 (U) *Ondal, India.*

3 (V) *Fort Clayton, San Jose Island, Pan-*
4 *ama.*

5 (W) *Any site the Secretary of Veterans Af-*
6 *fairs determines is appropriate.*

7 (4) *FACTORS OF CONSIDERATION.—In making a*
8 *determination under paragraph (1), the Secretary—*

9 (A) *shall consider—*

10 (i) *that contemporaneous records of*
11 *testing of full-body exposure to a covered*
12 *substance frequently may be unavailable be-*
13 *cause such tests were classified or such*
14 *records were lost or destroyed;*

15 (ii) *that many veterans were sworn to*
16 *secrecy following testing described in clause*
17 *(i);*

18 (iii) *each statement based on personal*
19 *knowledge of a veteran who served at a site*
20 *listed in paragraph (3);*

21 (iv) *information in the report from the*
22 *Secretary of Defense under subsection*
23 *(b)(2); and*

24 (v) *any evidence the Secretary con-*
25 *siders relevant; and*

1 (B) may not determine that testing of full-
2 body exposure to a covered substance did not
3 occur at a site based solely on—

4 (i) information contained in the De-
5 partment of Defense and Department of Vet-
6 erans Affairs Chemical Biological Warfare
7 Database; or

8 (ii) any list of known sites of testing of
9 full-body exposure to a covered substance
10 maintained by the Department of Veterans
11 Affairs or the Department of Defense.

12 (5) *PRESUMPTION OF EXPOSURE.*—In carrying
13 out paragraph (1), when the Secretary of Veterans Af-
14 fairs makes a determination regarding whether a vet-
15 eran experienced full-body exposure to a covered sub-
16 stance, the Secretary—

17 (A) shall presume, unless there is affirma-
18 tive evidence to establish otherwise, that the vet-
19 eran experienced such exposure by reason of the
20 service of the veteran in World War II—

21 (i) based on the locations listed in
22 paragraph (3); and

23 (ii) consistent with the places, types,
24 and circumstances of service of the veteran

1 *in accordance with section 1154 of title 38;*

2 *and*

3 *(B) shall resolve each reasonable doubt in*

4 *favor of the veteran.*

5 (6) *EFFECTIVE DATE OF AWARD.*—*The effective*

6 *date of any award of disability compensation result-*

7 *ing from reconsideration of a claim under paragraph*

8 *(1) shall be fixed in accordance with the facts found,*

9 *but shall not be earlier than the date of the receipt*

10 *of the claim for compensation described in paragraph*

11 *(2).*

12 (b) *INVESTIGATION AND REPORT BY THE SECRETARY*

13 *OF DEFENSE.*—*Not later than 180 days after the date of*

14 *the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall—*

15 (1) *investigate and assess each site—*

16 (A) *where the Army Corps of Engineers has*

17 *uncovered evidence of testing conducted by the*

18 *Department of Defense during World War II to*

19 *assess the effects of full-body exposure to a cov-*

20 *ered substance on humans; or*

21 (B) *with regards to which more than two*

22 *veterans have been denied claims for compensa-*

23 *tion under chapter 11 of title 38, United States*

24 *Code, in connection with exposure to a covered*

25 *substance at such site; and*

1 (2) *submit to the appropriate congressional com-*
2 *mittees and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs a report*
3 *on testing described in paragraph (1)(A), including—*

4 (A) *a list of each location where such testing*
5 *occurred, including locations investigated and*
6 *assessed under paragraph (1);*

7 (B) *the dates of each such testing; and*

8 (C) *the number of members of the Armed*
9 *Forces who experienced full-body exposure to a*
10 *covered substance in each such testing.*

11 (c) *INVESTIGATION AND REPORT BY SECRETARY OF*
12 *VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Not later than 180 days after the*
13 *date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans*
14 *Affairs shall—*

15 (1) *investigate and assess—*

16 (A) *the actions taken by the Secretary to*
17 *contact individuals who experienced full-body ex-*
18 *posure to a covered substance in the course of*
19 *testing described in subsection (b)(1)(A);*

20 (B) *the number of claims filed with the Sec-*
21 *retary for disability compensation under chapter*
22 *11 of title 38, United States Code, arising from*
23 *testing described in subsection (b)(1)(A); and*

24 (C) *the percentage of claims described in*
25 *subparagraph (B) that the Secretary denied.*

1 (2) *submit to the appropriate congressional com-*
2 *mittees and the Secretary of Defense a report regard-*
3 *ing the investigations and assessments carried out*
4 *under paragraph (1).*

5 *(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

6 (1) *The terms “active military, naval, or air*
7 *service”, “veteran”, and “World War II” have the*
8 *meanings given such terms in section 101 of title 38,*
9 *United States Code.*

10 (2) *The term “appropriate congressional com-*
11 *mittees” means—*

12 (A) *the Committees on Armed Services of*
13 *the House of Representatives and the Senate; and*

14 (B) *the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of*
15 *the House of Representatives and the Senate.*

16 (3) *The term “covered substance” means—*

17 (A) *nitrogen mustard gas;*

18 (B) *sulfur mustard gas; or*

19 (C) *Lewisite.*

20 (4) *The term “full-body exposure”, with respect*
21 *to a covered substance, has the meaning given that*
22 *term by the Secretary of Defense.*

Union Calendar No. 179

115TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

H. R. 3218

[Report No. 115-247, Part I]

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.

JULY 24, 2017

Reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs with
an amendment

JULY 24, 2017

The Committee on Armed Services discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed