

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4845

To amend the student loan forgiveness program in the Higher Education Act of 1965 to include a greater number of disabled veterans and to facilitate the automatic transfer to the Secretary of Education of information regarding veterans eligible for student loan forgiveness, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 23, 2016

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York (for himself and Mr. BARLETTA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the student loan forgiveness program in the Higher Education Act of 1965 to include a greater number of disabled veterans and to facilitate the automatic transfer to the Secretary of Education of information regarding veterans eligible for student loan forgiveness, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Disabled Veterans Stu-
5 dent Loan Protection Act of 2016”.

1 **SEC. 2. SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY DETERMINA-**
2 **TIONS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 437(a) of the Higher
4 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087(a)) is amended
5 by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

6 “(2) SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY DETER-
7 MINATIONS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A borrower who has
9 been determined to be unemployable by the Sec-
10 retary of Veterans Affairs or has been assigned
11 a disability rating of 100 percent (or a com-
12 bination of ratings equaling 100 percent) by the
13 Secretary of Veterans Affairs or the Secretary
14 of Defense for a service-connected disability (as
15 defined in section 101 of title 38, United States
16 Code), regardless of whether such borrower pro-
17 vides documentation of such rating to the Sec-
18 retary of Education, shall be considered perma-
19 nently and totally disabled for the purpose of
20 discharging such borrower’s loans under this
21 subsection, and such borrower shall not be re-
22 quired to present any additional documentation
23 for purposes of this subsection.

24 “(B) RATING OF DISABILITY.—A deter-
25 mination of unemployability or disability rating
26 of 100 percent described in subparagraph (A)

1 and transmitted in accordance with subpara-
2 graph (C) shall be considered sufficient docu-
3 mentation for purposes of this subsection.

4 “(C) TRANSFER OF INFORMATION.—Not
5 later than 180 days after the date of enactment
6 of this paragraph, the Secretary of Education,
7 in coordination with the Secretary of Defense
8 and the Secretary of Veteran Affairs, shall cre-
9 ate a system through which the applicable dis-
10 ability ratings, or alternative means of trans-
11 mitting a determination of unemployability,
12 made before, on, or after the date of enactment
13 of this paragraph, shall be automatically trans-
14 mitted from the Department of Defense or the
15 Department of Veterans Affairs, as the case
16 may be, to the Department of Education and
17 shall satisfy the documentation requirement de-
18 scribed in this subparagraph. The Secretaries
19 shall have the authority to enter into any agree-
20 ments necessary to implement the requirements
21 of this subparagraph.

22 “(D) NOTIFICATION TO BORROWERS.—The
23 Secretary of Education shall notify each bor-
24 rower whose liability on a loan has been dis-

1 charged under this subsection that such loan
2 has been discharged.”.

3 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by
4 this section shall take effect on the date that is 60 days
5 after the date of enactment of this Act.

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