

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1938

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the approval of certain programs of education for purposes of educational assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 5, 2015

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the approval of certain programs of education for purposes of educational assistance provided by the Department 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Career-Ready Student
5 Veterans Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL**
 2 **OF COURSES USING EDUCATIONAL ASSIST-**
 3 **ANCE PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
 4 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

5 (a) APPROVAL OF NON-ACCREDITED COURSES.—

6 Subsection (c) of section 3676 of title 38, United States
 7 Code, is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating paragraph (14) as para-
 9 graph (16); and

10 (2) by inserting after paragraph (13) the fol-
 11 lowing new paragraphs:

12 “(14) In the case of a program designed to pre-
 13 pare an individual for licensure or certification in a
 14 State, the program meets any instructional cur-
 15 riculum licensure or certification requirements of
 16 such State.

17 “(15) In the case of a program designed to pre-
 18 pare an individual for employment pursuant to
 19 standards developed by a board or agency of a State
 20 in an occupation that requires approval or licensure,
 21 the program is approved or licensed by such board
 22 or agency of the State.”.

23 (b) EXCEPTIONS.—Such section is further amended
 24 by adding at the end the following new subsection:

25 “(f) The Secretary may waive the requirements of
 26 paragraph (14) or (15) of subsection (c) in the case of

1 a program of education offered by an educational institu-
2 tion if the Secretary determines the following:

3 “(1) The educational institution is accredited by
4 an agency or association recognized by the Secretary
5 of Education.

6 “(2) The program did not meet the require-
7 ments of such paragraph at any time during the
8 two-year period preceding the date of the waiver.

9 “(3) The waiver furthers the purposes of the
10 educational assistance programs administered by the
11 Secretary or would further the education interests of
12 individuals eligible for assistance under such pro-
13 grams.

14 “(4) The educational institution does not pro-
15 vide any commission, bonus, or other incentive pay-
16 ment based directly or indirectly on success in secur-
17 ing enrollments or financial aid to any persons or
18 entities engaged in any student recruiting or admis-
19 sion activities or in making decisions regarding the
20 award of student financial assistance, except for the
21 recruitment of foreign students residing in foreign
22 countries who are not eligible to receive Federal stu-
23 dent assistance.”.

24 (c) APPROVAL OF ACCREDITED COURSES.—Section
25 3675(b)(3) of such title is amended—

1 (1) by striking “and (3)” and inserting “(3),
2 (14), and (15)”; and

3 (2) by inserting before the period at the end the
4 following: “(or, with respect to such paragraphs (14)
5 and (15), the requirements under such paragraphs
6 are waived pursuant to subsection (f) of section
7 3676 of this title)”.

8 (d) DISAPPROVAL OF COURSES.—Section 3679 of
9 such title is amended by adding at the end the following
10 new subsection:

11 “(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
12 chapter, the Secretary shall disapprove a course of edu-
13 cation described in paragraph (14) or (15) of section
14 3676(c) of this title unless the educational institution pro-
15 viding the course of education publicly discloses any condi-
16 tions or additional requirements, including training, expe-
17 rience, or exams, required to obtain the license, certifi-
18 cation, or approval for which the course of education is
19 designed to provide preparation.”.

20 (e) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
21 3672(b)(2)(A)(i) of such title is amended by striking “An
22 accredited” and inserting “Except as provided in para-
23 graphs (14) and (15) of section 3676(c) of this title, an
24 accredited”.

1 (f) APPLICABILITY.—If after enrollment in a course
2 of education that is subject to disapproval by reason of
3 an amendment made by this Act, an individual pursues
4 one or more courses of education at the same educational
5 institution while remaining continuously enrolled (other
6 than during regularly scheduled breaks between courses,
7 semesters, or terms) at that institution, any course so pur-
8 sued by the individual at that institution while so continu-
9 ously enrolled shall not be subject to disapproval by reason
10 of such amendment.

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