

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2549

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the administration of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 19, 2017

Mr. COFFMAN (for himself and Mr. O’ROURKE) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the administration of the educational assistance programs of 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 “GI Bill Processing Im-
5 provement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROVISION OF INFORMATION REGARDING VET-**
2 **ERAN ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL AS-**
3 **SISTANCE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 36 of
5 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
6 end the following new section:

7 **“§ 3699. Provision of certain information to edu-**
8 **cational institutions**

9 “For each veteran or other individual pursuing a
10 course of education that has been approved under this
11 chapter using educational assistance to which the veteran
12 or other individual is entitled under chapter 30, 32, 33,
13 or 35 of this title, the Secretary shall make available to
14 the educational institution offering the course information
15 about the amount of such educational assistance to which
16 the veteran or other individual is entitled. Such informa-
17 tion shall be provided to such educational institution
18 through a secure information technology system accessible
19 by the educational institution and shall be regularly up-
20 dated to reflect any amounts used by the veteran or other
21 individual.”.

22 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
23 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
24 after the item relating to section 3698 the following new
25 item:

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

1 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR ADVISORY COM-**
2 **MITTEE ON EDUCATION.**

3 Section 3692 of such title is amended by striking
4 “December 31, 2017” and inserting “December 31,
5 2022”.

6 **SEC. 4. LIMITATION ON USE OF REPORTING FEES PAYABLE**
7 **TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND JOINT**
8 **APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING COMMITTEES.**

9 Section 3684(c) of title 38, United States Code, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 “(c)(1) The Secretary may pay to any educational in-
12 stitution, or to the sponsor of a program of apprenticeship,
13 furnishing education or training under either this chapter
14 or chapter 31, 34, or 35 of this title, a reporting fee which
15 will be in lieu of any other compensation or reimbursement
16 for reports or certifications which such educational institu-
17 tion or joint apprenticeship training committee is required
18 to submit to the Secretary by law or regulation.

19 “(2) Such reporting fee shall be computed for each
20 calendar year by multiplying \$16 by the number of eligible
21 veterans or eligible persons enrolled under this chapter or
22 chapter 31, 34, or 35 of this title, or \$15 in the case of
23 those eligible veterans and eligible persons whose edu-
24 cational assistance checks are directed in care of each in-
25 stitution for temporary custody and delivery and are deliv-
26 ered at the time of registration as provided under section

1 3680(d)(4) of this title, during the calendar year. The re-
2 porting fee shall be paid to such educational institution
3 or joint apprenticeship training committee as soon as fea-
4 sible after the end of the calendar year for which it is
5 applicable.

6 “(3) No reporting fee payable to an educational insti-
7 tution under this subsection shall be subject to offset by
8 the Secretary against any liability of such institution for
9 any overpayment for which such institution may be admin-
10 istratively determined to be liable under section 3685 of
11 this title unless such liability is not contested by such in-
12 stitution or has been upheld by a final decree of a court
13 of appropriate jurisdiction.

14 “(4) Any reporting fee paid to an educational institu-
15 tion or joint apprenticeship training committee after the
16 date of the enactment of the Post-9/11 Veterans Edu-
17 cational Assistance Improvements Act of 2011 (Public
18 Law 111–377)—

19 “(A) shall be utilized by such institution or
20 committee solely for the making of certifications re-
21 quired under this chapter or chapter 31, 34, or 35
22 of this title or for otherwise supporting programs for
23 veterans; and

24 “(B) with respect to an institution that has 75
25 or more enrollees described in paragraph (2), may

1 not be used for or merged with amounts available
2 for the general fund of the educational institution or
3 joint apprenticeship training committee.

4 “(5) The reporting fee payable under this subsection
5 shall be paid from amounts appropriated for readjustment
6 benefits.”.

7 **SEC. 5. TRAINING FOR SCHOOL CERTIFYING OFFICIALS.**

8 (a) TRAINING REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of
9 Veterans Affairs shall, in consultation with the State ap-
10 proving agencies, set forth requirements relating to train-
11 ing for school certifying officials employed by covered edu-
12 cational institutions offering courses of education ap-
13 proved under chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code.
14 If a covered educational institution does not ensure that
15 a school certifying official employed by the educational in-
16 stitution meets such requirements, the Secretary may dis-
17 approve any course of education offered by such edu-
18 cational institution.

19 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) The term “covered educational institution”
21 means an educational institution that has enrolled
22 20 or more individuals using educational assistance
23 under title 38, United States Code.

24 (2) The term “school certifying official” means
25 an employee of an educational institution with pri-

1 mary responsibility for certifying veteran enrollment
2 at the educational institution.

3 (3) The term “State approving agency” means
4 a department or agency of a State designated under
5 section 3671 of title 38, United States Code.

6 **SEC. 6. STATE APPROVING AGENCY FUNDING.**

7 (a) INCREASE.—Section 3674(a) of title 38, United
8 States Code, is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “out of
10 amounts available for the payment of readjustment
11 benefits” and inserting “out of amounts in the De-
12 partment of Veterans Affairs readjustment benefits
13 account and amounts appropriated to the Sec-
14 retary”;

15 (2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-
16 graph (5);

17 (3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
18 lowing new paragraph (4):

19 “(4) There is authorized to be appropriated to carry
20 out this section \$3,000,000 for each fiscal year.”; and

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

22 (A) by striking “The total” and inserting
23 “(A) The total”;

24 (B) by striking “\$19,000,000” and insert-
25 ing “\$21,000,000”; and

1 (C) by adding at the end the following new
2 subparagraph:

3 “(B) Whenever there is an increase in benefit
4 amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act
5 (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) as a result of a determination
6 made under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)),
7 the Secretary shall, effective on the date of such increase
8 in benefit amounts, increase the amount in effect under
9 subparagraph (A), as in effect immediately prior to the
10 date of such increase in benefit amounts payable under
11 title II of the Social Security Act, by the same percentage
12 as the percentage by which such benefit amounts are in-
13 creased.”.

○