

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2679

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve service-connected disability determinations for purposes of loan discharge.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 2017

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. BARLETTA, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, and Ms. SINEMA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve service-connected disability determinations for purposes of loan discharge.

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 “Match Veterans to Stu-
5 dent Loan Protections Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. IMPROVED DISABILITY DETERMINATIONS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 437(a) of the Higher
8 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087(a)) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (2)—

1 (A) by striking “A borrower” and inserting
2 the following:

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A borrower”; and

4 (B) by adding at the end the following

5 “(B) MATCHING PROGRAM.—

6 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of
7 Education and the Secretary of Veterans
8 Affairs shall carry out a computer match-
9 ing program under which the Secretary of
10 Education identifies, on at least a quar-
11 terly basis, borrowers—

12 “(I) who have been assigned a
13 disability rating of 100 percent (or a
14 combination of ratings equaling 100
15 percent or more) by the Secretary of
16 Veterans Affairs for a service-con-
17 nected disability (as defined in section
18 101 of title 38, United States Code);
19 or

20 “(II) who have been determined
21 by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
22 to be unemployable due to a service-
23 connected condition, as described in
24 subparagraph (A).

1 “(ii) BORROWER NOTIFICATION.—

2 With respect to each borrower who is iden-
3 tified by the Secretary of Education under
4 clause (i), the Secretary shall, as soon as
5 practicable after such identification—

6 “(I) notify the borrower of the
7 borrower’s eligibility for loan dis-
8 charge under this subsection; and

9 “(II) provide the borrower with
10 simple instructions on how to apply
11 for such loan discharge, including an
12 explanation that the borrower shall
13 not be required to provide any docu-
14 mentation of the borrower’s disability
15 rating to receive such discharge.”; and

16 (2) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(3) DATA COLLECTION AND REPORT TO CON-
18 GRESS.—The Secretary shall annually collect and
19 submit to the Committees on Education and the
20 Workforce and Veterans’ Affairs of the House of
21 Representatives and the Committees on Health,
22 Education, Labor, and Pensions and Veterans’ Af-
23 fairs of the Senate, data about borrowers applying
24 for and receiving loan discharges under this sub-
25 section, which shall include the following,

1 disaggregated by borrowers applying for or receiving
2 such discharges under subparagraph (A) or (B) of
3 paragraph (2):

4 “(A) The number of applications received
5 under this subsection.

6 “(B) The number of such applications that
7 were approved.

8 “(C) The number of loan discharges that
9 were completed under this subsection.

10 “(4) NOTIFICATION TO BORROWERS.—The Sec-
11 retary shall notify each borrower whose liability on
12 a loan has been discharged under this subsection
13 that such loan has been discharged.”.

14 (b) REPORTS.—

15 (1) PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the
16 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
17 Education shall submit to the appropriate commit-
18 tees of Congress a report that includes a plan to
19 carry out the activities described under section
20 437(a)(2)(B) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
21 (20 U.S.C. 1087(a)(2)), as added by this section.

22 (2) FOLLOW-UP REPORT.—If the Secretary of
23 Education has not carried out the activities de-
24 scribed under section 437(a)(2)(B) of the Higher
25 Education Act of 1965, as added by this section, by

1 the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment
2 of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall submit
3 to the appropriate committees of Congress, by such
4 date, a report that includes an explanation of why
5 those activities have not been implemented.

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