

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1125

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide Federal Pell Grants to Iraq and Afghanistan veteran’s dependents.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 15, 2017

Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. TESTER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide Federal Pell Grants to Iraq and Afghanistan veteran’s dependents.

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 “Protect Our Gold Star
5 Families’ Education Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROVIDING FEDERAL PELL GRANTS FOR IRAQ AND**
2 **AFGHANISTAN VETERAN'S DEPENDENTS.**

3 (a) AMENDMENTS.—Part A of title IV of the Higher
4 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a et seq.) is
5 amended—

6 (1) in section 401, by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(k) SCHOLARSHIPS FOR VETERAN’S DEPEND-
9 ENTS.—

10 “(1) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE VETERAN’S DE-
11 PENDENT.—In this subsection, the term ‘eligible vet-
12 eran’s dependent’ means a dependent or an inde-
13 pendent student—

14 “(A) whose parent or guardian was a
15 member of the Armed Forces of the United
16 States and died as a result of performing mili-
17 tary service in Iraq or Afghanistan after Sep-
18 tember 11, 2001; and

19 “(B) who, at the time of the parent or
20 guardian’s death, was—

21 “(i) less than 24 years of age; or

22 “(ii) enrolled at an institution of high-
23 er education on a part-time or full-time
24 basis.

25 “(2) GRANTS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
2 award a Federal Pell Grant, as modified in ac-
3 cordance with the requirements of this sub-
4 section, to each eligible veteran’s dependent to
5 assist in paying the eligible veteran’s depend-
6 ent’s cost of attendance at an institution of
7 higher education.

8 “(B) DESIGNATION.—Federal Pell Grants
9 made under this subsection may be known as
10 ‘Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants’.

11 “(3) PREVENTION OF DOUBLE BENEFITS.—No
12 eligible veteran’s dependent may receive a grant
13 under both this subsection and subsection (a) for the
14 same award year.

15 “(4) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary
16 shall award Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants
17 under this subsection in the same manner and with
18 the same terms and conditions, including the length
19 of the period of eligibility, as the Secretary awards
20 Federal Pell Grants under subsection (a), except
21 that—

22 “(A) the award rules and determination of
23 need applicable to the calculation of Federal
24 Pell Grants under subsection (a) shall not apply
25 to Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants;

“(B) the maximum period determined under subsection (c)(5) shall be determined by including all Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants received by the eligible veteran’s dependent, including such Grants received under subpart 10 before the effective date of this subsection; and

“(C) an Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant to an eligible veteran’s dependent for any award year shall equal the maximum Federal Pell Grant available for that award year, except that an Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant—

“(i) shall not exceed the cost of attendance of the eligible veteran’s dependent for that award year; and

“(ii) shall be adjusted to reflect the attendance by the eligible veteran’s dependent on a less than full-time basis in the same manner as such adjustments are made for a Federal Pell Grant under subsection (a).

“(5) ESTIMATED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—For purposes of determinations of need under part F, an Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant shall not be

1 treated as estimated financial assistance as de-
2 scribed in sections 471(3) and 480(j).”; and

3 (2) by striking subpart 10.

4 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE; TRANSITION.—

5 (1) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
6 by this section shall take effect with respect to the
7 award year immediately following the date of enact-
8 ment of this Act.

9 (2) TRANSITION.—The Secretary shall take
10 such steps as are necessary to transition from the
11 Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants program under
12 subpart 10 of part A of title IV of the Higher Edu-
13 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070h), as in effect
14 on the day before the effective date of this section,
15 and the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants pro-
16 gram under section 401(k) of the Higher Education
17 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(k)), as amended by
18 this section.

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