

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2265

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the work-study allowance program administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 25, 2019

Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS) 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 work-study allowance program administered by the Secretary 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 Work Study
5 Improvement Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENT TO WORK-STUDY ALLOWANCE PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 (a) PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCE.—Subsection (a) of
9 section 3485 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “Individuals”
2 and inserting “In accordance with paragraph (4), in-
3 dividuals”;

4 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), and
5 (6) as paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively; and

6 (3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
7 lowing new paragraph:

8 “(4)(A) The Secretary shall carry out this section by
9 providing to an educational institution an annual amount
10 for the institution to use in paying work-study allowance
11 under paragraph (1) to individuals enrolled at the institu-
12 tion.

13 “(B) With respect to an educational institution that
14 participated in the work-study program under this section
15 during the academic year beginning August 1, 2018, the
16 Secretary shall determine the annual amount to provide
17 to the educational institution under subparagraph (A) as
18 follows:

19 “(i) For the academic year beginning August 1,
20 2020, the amount shall be the total amount the Sec-
21 retary paid under this section to individuals enrolled
22 at such educational institution during the academic
23 year beginning August 1, 2018.

24 “(ii) Except as provided by subparagraph
25 (D)(ii), for each academic year beginning on or after

1 August 1, 2021, the amount shall be the total
2 amount the educational institution paid under this
3 section for work-study allowance to individuals en-
4 rolled at such educational institution during the pre-
5 vious academic year in which individuals participated
6 in the work-study program.

7 “(C) With respect to an educational institution that
8 did not participate in the work-study program under this
9 section during the academic year beginning August 1,
10 2018, the Secretary shall determine the annual amount
11 to provide to the educational institution under subpara-
12 graph (A) as follows:

13 “(i) For the first academic year in which the
14 educational institution participates in the work-study
15 program beginning on or after August 1, 2020, the
16 amount shall be an amount the Secretary determines
17 appropriate based on an amount provided to a simi-
18 lar educational institution pursuant to subparagraph
19 (B).

20 “(ii) Except as provided by subparagraph
21 (D)(ii), for each academic year occurring after the
22 academic year specified in clause (i), the amount
23 shall be the total amount the educational institution
24 paid under this section for work-study allowance to
25 individuals enrolled at such educational institution

1 during the previous academic year in which individ-
2 uals enrolled at such educational institution partici-
3 pated in the work-study program.

4 “(D)(i) Except as provided in clause (ii), if the Sec-
5 retary provides an annual amount to an educational insti-
6 tution under subparagraph (B) or (C) that is more than
7 the total amount the educational institution pays to indi-
8 viduals under paragraph (1)—

9 “(I) the educational institution shall return to
10 the Secretary the unpaid amount; and

11 “(II) the Secretary shall transfer the returned
12 amount into the general fund of the Treasury.

13 “(ii)(I) If the annual amount provided to an edu-
14 cational institution under subparagraph (B) or (C) is
15 more, but less than 10 percent more, than the total
16 amount the educational institution pays to individuals
17 under paragraph (1), and the educational institution plans
18 to participate in the work-study program under this sec-
19 tion during the subsequent academic year, the educational
20 institution may retain the amount of the overpayment if
21 the educational institution notifies the Secretary of the
22 amount of the overpayment and the intention of the edu-
23 cational institution to retain such amount.

24 “(II) Any amount retained by an educational institu-
25 tion under this clause may only be used by the educational

1 institution to provide work-study allowance to individuals
2 enrolled at the educational institution.

3 “(iii) At any time an educational institution may re-
4 quest the Secretary to increase the annual amount that
5 the Secretary provides the educational institution under
6 subparagraph (B) or (C).

7 “(E) Pursuant to section 3690(c), section 3693, and
8 other provisions of chapter 36 of this title, the Secretary
9 shall ensure that an educational institution carries out the
10 work-study allowance program in compliance with this sec-
11 tion.”.

12 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (e)(1)
13 of such section is amended by striking “subsection (a)(4)”
14 and inserting “subsection (a)(5)”.

15 (c) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by this
16 section shall apply with respect to a quarter, semester, or
17 term, as applicable, commencing on or after August 1,
18 2020.

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