

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3641

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide student loan
deferment for dislocated military spouses, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 28, 2021

Ms. STEFANIK (for herself, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. MAST, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. GOHMERT, Ms. NORTON, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, and Mrs. WAGNER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide
student loan deferment for dislocated military spouses,
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 “Military Spouse Stu-
5 dent Loan Deferment Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDENT LOAN DEFERMENT FOR DISLOCATED**
2 **MILITARY SPOUSES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 455(f) of the Higher Edu-
4 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(f)) is amended—

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

7 (2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(4) DEFERMENT FOR DISLOCATED MILITARY
10 SPOUSES.—

11 “(A) DURATION AND EFFECT ON PRIN-
12 CIPAL AND INTEREST.—A borrower of a loan
13 made, insured, or guaranteed under this part or
14 part B who meets the requirements of subpara-
15 graph (B) shall be eligible for a deferment for
16 a period of 90 days, during which periodic in-
17 stallments of principal need not be paid, and in-
18 terest shall not accrue.

19 “(B) ELIGIBILITY.—A borrower of a loan
20 made, insured, or guaranteed under this part or
21 part B shall be eligible for a deferment under
22 subparagraph (A) if the borrower—

23 “(i) is the spouse of a member of the
24 Armed Forces serving on active duty; and

25 “(ii) has experienced a loss of employ-
26 ment as a result of relocation to accommo-

1 date a permanent change in duty station of
2 such member.

3 “(C) DOCUMENTATION AND APPROVAL.—

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A borrower may
5 establish eligibility for a deferment under
6 subparagraph (A) by providing to the Sec-
7 retary—

8 “(I) the documentation described
9 in clause (ii); or

10 “(II) such other documentation
11 as the Secretary determines appro-
12 priate.

13 “(ii) DOCUMENTATION.—The docu-
14 mentation described in this clause is—

15 “(I) evidence that the borrower is
16 the spouse of a member of the Armed
17 Forces serving on active duty;

18 “(II) evidence that a military
19 permanent change of station order
20 was issued to such member; and

21 “(III)(aa) evidence that the bor-
22 rower is eligible for unemployment
23 benefits due to a loss of employment
24 resulting from relocation to accommo-

1 date such permanent change in duty
2 station; or

3 “(bb) a written certification, or
4 an equivalent as approved by the Sec-
5 retary, that the borrower is registered
6 with a public or private employment
7 agency due to a loss of employment
8 resulting from relocation to accommo-
9 date such permanent change in duty
10 station.”.

11 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
12 subsection (a) shall take effect 90 days after the date of
13 the enactment of this Act.

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