

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5138

To amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the criteria for approval of certain independent study programs for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. BUDD, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. STABENOW) 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 modify the criteria for approval of certain independent study programs for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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 “Veterans Education
5 and Technical Skills Opportunity Act of 2024” or the
6 “VETS Opportunity Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN INDEPENDENT STUDY**
2 **PROGRAMS UNDER EDUCATIONAL ASSIST-**
3 **ANCE PROGRAMS OF DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
4 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3680A(a)(4)(B)(iii) of
6 title 38, United States Code, is amended—

7 (1) in the matter before subclause (I), by in-
8 serting “that requires regular and substantive inter-
9 action between students and instructors” after
10 “study”; and

11 (2) by amending subclause (II) to read as fol-
12 lows:

13 “(II) an institution of higher
14 education (as defined in section 102
15 of the Higher Education Act of 1965
16 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) that is partici-
17 pating in a student financial assist-
18 ance program authorized by title IV of
19 that Act; and”.

20 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by sub-
21 section (a) shall apply with respect to any quarter, semes-
22 ter, or term, as applicable, that begins on or after August
23 1, 2024.

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