

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 980

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the provision of on-campus educational and vocational counseling by the Department 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Readiness
3 and Employment Improvement Act of 2025”.

4 **SEC. 2. ELIMINATION OF REQUIREMENT THAT ON-CAMPUS**
5 **EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL COUN-**
6 **SELING IS PROVIDED BY CERTAIN DEPART-**
7 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EMPLOYEES.**

8 Section 3697B(a) of title 38, United States Code, is
9 amended by striking the second sentence.

10 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
11 **TO APPROVE NON-DEGREE FLIGHT TRAINING**
12 **COURSES AS PART OF VOCATIONAL REHA-**
13 **BILITATION PROGRAMS FOR CERTAIN VET-**
14 **ERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABIL-**
15 **ITIES.**

16 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3104(b) of title 38,
17 United States Code, is amended—

18 (1) by inserting “(1)” before “A rehabilitation
19 program”;

20 (2) by striking “To the maximum extent prac-
21 ticable” and inserting “Except as provided under
22 paragraph (2), to the maximum extent practicable”;
23 and

24 (3) by adding at the end the following new
25 paragraph:

1 “(2) Notwithstanding section 3680A(b) of this title,
2 the Secretary may approve a rehabilitation program for
3 a veteran under this chapter that includes the pursuit of
4 a course of flight training other than one given by an edu-
5 cational institution of higher learning for credit toward a
6 standard college degree the veteran is seeking.”.

7 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by sub-
8 section (a) shall apply with respect to a rehabilitation pro-
9 gram approved on or after August 1, 2026.

10 **SEC. 4. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TRAINING**
11 **AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS FOR VET-**
12 **ERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABIL-**
13 **ITIES: OUTREACH REQUIREMENT; EXTEN-**
14 **SIONS.**

15 (a) VRE CONTACT INFORMATION.—Section 3104 of
16 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
17 end the following new subsection:

18 “(f) The Secretary shall establish a dedicated tele-
19 phone number within the Education Call Center of the De-
20 partment for calls about services provided under this chap-
21 ter. Each regional office of the Department shall include,
22 on the website of the regional office, a name, telephone
23 number, and email address, through which veterans may
24 receive information about services provided under this
25 chapter.”.

1 (b) REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS OF PROGRAMS:
2 TIMELY CONSIDERATION; REPORT.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3105 of title 38,
4 United States Code, is amended, in subsection (c)—

5 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and

6 (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

7 (B) by inserting “(1)” before “The Sec-
8 retary”; and

9 (C) by adding at the end the following new
10 paragraph:

11 “(2) The Secretary shall approve or deny a request
12 for an extension under paragraph (1) not later than 30
13 days after the date on which the veteran submits such re-
14 quest.”.

15 (2) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the
16 date of the enactment of this Act, and annually
17 thereafter for five years, the Secretary of Veterans
18 Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’
19 Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives
20 an annual report on requests for extensions under
21 such subsection (c). Each such report shall include,
22 for the year preceding the date of the report—

23 (A) the number of veterans who requested
24 such an extension;

1 (B) the number of such requests that were
2 approved; and

3 (C) the number of such requests that were
4 denied.

5 **SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF**
6 **PENSION.**

7 Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code,
8 is amended by striking “January 31, 2033” and inserting
9 “July 31, 2033”.

Passed the House of Representatives February 2,
2026.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.