

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5945

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make payments to individuals entitled to educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance program who pursue a program of education through distance learning to be used to purchase computers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 9, 2021

Mrs. TORRES of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make payments to individuals entitled to educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance program who pursue a program of education through distance learning to be used to purchase computers, 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 Distance
5 Learning Improvement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDING; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 (a) FINDING.—Congress finds that during the
3 COVID–19 pandemic, remote learning technology such as
4 computers and routers for internet were more important
5 than ever for many veteran students.

6 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
7 gress that the Department of Veterans Affairs should ex-
8 plore options for ensuring all veteran students have access
9 to the technology and connectivity they need to be success-
10 ful in school.

11 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL PAYMENT TO DISTANCE LEARNERS**
12 **UNDER DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
13 **POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PRO-**
14 **GRAM FOR PURCHASE OF COMPUTER.**

15 Section 3313 of title 38, United States Code, is
16 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
17 section:

18 “(m) ADDITIONAL AMOUNT FOR PURCHASE OF COM-
19 PUTERS FOR DISTANCE LEARNERS.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make a
21 one-time payment to an individual pursuing a pro-
22 gram of education solely or partially through dis-
23 tance learning on more than a half-time basis in an
24 amount of \$500 to be used for the purchase of a
25 computer for use in pursuing such program of edu-
26 cation.

1 “(2) APPLICATION.—To be eligible for a pay-
2 ment under this subsection, an individual shall sub-
3 mit to the Secretary an application containing such
4 information and assurances as the Secretary may re-
5 quire.”.

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