

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5545

To extend certain expiring provisions of law relating to benefits provided under Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs during COVID–19 pandemic.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 8, 2021

Mr. TRONE (for himself, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. LEVIN of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To extend certain expiring provisions of law relating to benefits provided under Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs during COVID–19 pandemic.

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 “Responsible Education
5 Mitigating Options and Technical Extensions Act” or the
6 “REMOTE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXTENSIONS OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF LAW RE-**
2 **LATING TO BENEFITS PROVIDED UNDER DE-**
3 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EDU-**
4 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS DURING**
5 **COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**

6 (a) EXTENSION OF STUDENT VETERAN
7 CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT OF 2020.—Section 2 of the
8 Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 (Pub-
9 lic Law 116–140; 38 U.S.C. 3031 note), as amended by
10 section 5202(a) of the Department of Veterans Affairs
11 Expiring Authorities Act of 2020 (Division E of Public
12 Law 116–159), is further amended by striking “December
13 21, 2021” and inserting “June 1, 2022”.

14 (b) EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR CONTINUATION OF
15 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EDUCATIONAL AS-
16 SISTANCE BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS OF EDU-
17 CATION CONVERTED TO DISTANCE LEARNING BY REASON
18 OF EMERGENCIES AND HEALTH-RELATED SITUATIONS.—
19 Section 1(b) of Public Law 116–128 (38 U.S.C. 3001 note
20 prec.), as amended by section 5202(b) of the Department
21 of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2020 (Di-
22 vision E of Public Law 116–159), is further amended by
23 striking “December 21, 2021” and inserting “June 1,
24 2022”.

1 **SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF**
2 **EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS RELATING TO**
3 **ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION AND FOREIGN**
4 **STUDENTS AND INSTITUTIONS.**

5 (a) WAIVER OF VERIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT FOR
6 CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—Section 3313(l)
7 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at
8 the end the following new paragraph:

9 “(4) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the
10 requirements of this subsection for an educational
11 institution that the Secretary has determined uses a
12 flat rate tuition and fee structure that would make
13 the submission of a second verification under this
14 subsection unnecessary.”.

15 (b) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORITY TO DISAPPROVE OF
16 COURSES.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (f) of section
18 3679 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

19 (A) in paragraph (2)(B);

20 (i) by inserting “, except for the re-
21 cruitment of foreign students residing in
22 foreign countries who are not eligible to re-
23 ceive Federal student assistance” after
24 “assistance”; and

25 (ii) by adding at the end the following
26 new subparagraph:

1 “(C) When determining whether an educational
2 institution has complied with subparagraph (B), the
3 State approving agency, or the Secretary when act-
4 ing in the place of the State approving agency, shall
5 construe the requirements of this paragraph in ac-
6 cordance with the regulations and guidance pre-
7 scribed by the Secretary of Education pursuant to
8 section 487(a)(20) of the Higher Education Act of
9 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a)(20)).”;

10 (B) by redesignating paragraph (7) as
11 paragraph (8); and

12 (C) by inserting after paragraph (6) the
13 following new paragraph (7):

14 “(7) This subsection shall not apply to an educational
15 institution located in a foreign country or that substan-
16 tially complies with this subsection by providing to a cov-
17 ered individual the information described in this sub-
18 section on a form or template developed by the Secretary
19 of Education.”.

20 (2) APPLICATION DATE.—Beginning on June
21 15, 2022, an educational institution may submit an
22 application for a waiver, under subsection (f)(5) of
23 section 3679 of title 38, United States Code.

24 (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3696
25 of such title is amended—

1 (A) in subsection (c)—

2 (i) by inserting “(1)” before “An edu-
3 cational institution”;

4 (ii) by inserting “, except for the re-
5 cruitment of foreign students residing in
6 foreign countries who are not eligible to re-
7 ceive Federal student assistance” after
8 “assistance”; and

9 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing new paragraph:

11 “(2) When determining whether an educational insti-
12 tution has complied with paragraph (1), the Under Sec-
13 retary for Benefits shall construe the requirements of such
14 paragraph in accordance with the regulations and guid-
15 ance prescribed by the Secretary of Education pursuant
16 to section 487(a)(20) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
17 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a)(20)).”.

18 **SEC. 4. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Amounts provided to carry out
20 the amendments made by this Act are designated as an
21 emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the
22 Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

23 (b) DESIGNATION IN SENATE.—In the Senate,
24 amounts provided to carry out the amendments made by
25 this Act are designated as an emergency requirement pur-

1 suant to section 4112(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Con-
2 gress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal
3 year 2018.

○