

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2345

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the use of Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to pay for preparatory courses for professional licenses and certifications, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 30, 2019

Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. ROUNDS) 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 authorize the use of Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to pay for preparatory courses for professional licenses and certifications, 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 Access to Ca-
5 reer Credentials Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PREPARATORY COURSES**
 2 **AS PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION FOR PUR-**
 3 **POSES OF POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSIST-**
 4 **ANCE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 33 of title 38, United
 6 States Code, is amended by adding the following new sec-
 7 tion:

8 **“§ 3315B. Preparatory courses for licensure, certifi-**
 9 **cation, or national tests**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—An individual entitled to edu-
 11 cational assistance under this chapter shall also be entitled
 12 to payment for a preparatory course for a licensing or cer-
 13 tification test that is required or used to enter into, main-
 14 tain, or advance in employment in a predetermined and
 15 identified vocation or profession.

16 “(b) AMOUNT.—The amount of educational assist-
 17 ance payable under this chapter for a course described in
 18 subsection (a) is the lesser of—

19 “(1) the fee charged for the course; or

20 “(2) the amount of entitlement available to the
 21 individual under this chapter at the time of payment
 22 for the course under this section.

23 “(c) CHARGE AGAINST ENTITLEMENT.—The number
 24 of months of entitlement charged an individual under this
 25 chapter for a course described in subsection (a) shall be

1 pro-rated based on the actual amount of the fee charged
2 for the course relative to the rate for one month payable—

3 “(1) for the academic year beginning on August
4 1, 2011, \$1,460; or

5 “(2) for an academic year beginning on any
6 subsequent August 1, the amount for the previous
7 academic year beginning on August 1 under this
8 subsection, as increased by the percentage increase
9 equal to the most recent percentage increase deter-
10 mined under section 3015(h) of this title.”.

11 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 3532(g)
12 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or a pre-
14 paratory course described in section 3315B(a) of
15 this title” after “or national test providing an oppor-
16 tunity for course credit at institutions of higher
17 learning described in section 3501(a)(5) of this
18 title”; and

19 (2) in paragraphs (2) and (3), by inserting “or
20 preparatory course” after “test” everywhere it ap-
21 pears.

22 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
23 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to months begin-
24 ning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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