

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1946

To amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance the payment of monthly housing stipends under the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 24, 2019

Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. ROBERTS) 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 enhance the payment of monthly housing stipends under the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Program, 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 “Student Veterans
5 Housing Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. PAYMENT OF MONTHLY HOUSING STIPEND UNDER**
2 **POST-9/11 VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSIST-**
3 **ANCE PROGRAM.**

4 (a) PAYMENT OF MONTHLY.—Section 3313 of title
5 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
6 the following new subsection (k):

7 “(k) PAYMENT OF MONTHLY HOUSING STIPEND.—
8 The Secretary may pay a monthly housing stipend under
9 this section to an individual in connection with the pursuit
10 of a program of education at an educational institution
11 during a period in which the institution is closed during
12 a school term in which the individual is pursuing the pro-
13 gram of education.”.

14 (b) PAYMENT FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS BETWEEN
15 SCHOOL TERMS.—Such section is further amended by
16 adding at the end the following new subsection (l):

17 “(l) PAYMENT OF MONTHLY HOUSING STIPEND FOR
18 CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS BETWEEN SCHOOL TERMS.—

19 “(1) CONSECUTIVE TERMS AT SAME INSTITU-
20 TION.—If educational assistance is payable under
21 this chapter to an individual for the pursuit of a
22 program of education at an educational institution
23 in consecutive school terms, the second of which
24 does not begin immediately after the first, the
25 monthly housing stipend payable to the individual
26 under this section in connection with such assistance

1 as of the end of the first term may be payable to
 2 the individual during the period between such terms
 3 if—

4 “(A) the institution certifies to the Sec-
 5 retary that the individual is enrolled in the in-
 6 stitution on an individual term basis;

7 “(B) the period between such terms does
 8 not exceed eight weeks; and

9 “(C) the length of each such term is not
 10 less than the length of the period between such
 11 terms.

12 “(2) CONSECUTIVE TERMS AT DIFFERENT IN-
 13 STITUTIONS.—If an individual being paid edu-
 14 cational assistance under this chapter for a school
 15 term at an institution of higher learning (the pre-
 16 ceding term) transfers at the end of the preceding
 17 term to another institution of higher learning for the
 18 pursuit of a qualifying program of education com-
 19 mencing in the next school term (the following
 20 term), the individual may be paid the amount of the
 21 monthly housing stipend payable to the individual
 22 under this section in connection with such assistance
 23 for the preceding term during the period between
 24 the preceding term and the following term if the
 25 length of such period does not exceed 30 days.

1 “(3) NO CHARGE AGAINST ENTITLEMENT.—A
 2 monthly housing stipend paid to an individual under
 3 this subsection shall not be charged against the enti-
 4 tlement of the individual to educational assistance
 5 under this chapter.”.

6 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the
 7 amendments made by this section shall be construed to
 8 alter eligibility for monthly housing stipends under the
 9 Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Program
 10 under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, or any
 11 other program of educational assistance carried out by the
 12 Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

13 (d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
 14 gress that, in carrying out any program of educational as-
 15 sistance in addition to the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational
 16 Assistance Program in which a monthly housing stipend
 17 is payable in connection with receipt of such assistance
 18 under such program, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
 19 should apply the requirements and limitations in sub-
 20 sections (k) and (l) of section 3313 of title 38, United
 21 States Code (as amended by this section), in the payment
 22 of such stipends, to the extent applicable.

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