

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2108

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide additional educational assistance benefits under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to certain eligible individuals.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 20, 2017

Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, and Ms. TITUS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide additional educational assistance benefits under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to certain eligible individuals.

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 STEM Exten-
5 sion Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE UNDER**
2 **POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PRO-**
3 **GRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
4 **FAIRS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 33 of
6 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
7 end the following new section:

8 **“§ 3320. Additional benefits**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the limitation under
10 subsection (f), the Secretary shall provide additional bene-
11 fits to eligible individuals selected by the Secretary under
12 this section.

13 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this section, an
14 eligible individual is an individual—

15 “(1) who is or was entitled to educational as-
16 sistance under section 3311 of this title;

17 “(2) who has used all of the educational assist-
18 ance to which the individual is entitled under this
19 chapter;

20 “(3) who applies for assistance under this sec-
21 tion; and

22 “(4) who—

23 “(A) is enrolled in a program of education
24 leading to a post-secondary degree that requires
25 more than the standard 128 semester (or 192
26 quarter) credit hours for completion in—

- 1 “(i) biological or biomedical science;
- 2 “(ii) physical science;
- 3 “(iii) science technologies or techni-
- 4 cians;
- 5 “(iv) computer and information
- 6 science and support services;
- 7 “(v) mathematics or statistics;
- 8 “(vi) engineering;
- 9 “(vii) engineering technologies or an
- 10 engineering-related field;
- 11 “(viii) a health profession or related
- 12 program; or
- 13 “(ix) a medical residency program; or
- 14 “(B) has earned a post-secondary degree
- 15 in a field referred to in subparagraph (A) and
- 16 is enrolled in a program of education leading to
- 17 a teaching certification.

18 “(c) PRIORITY.—In selecting eligible individuals to
 19 receive additional benefits under this section, the Sec-
 20 retary shall give priority to the following individuals:

- 21 “(1) Individuals who require the most credit
- 22 hours described in subsection (b)(4).
- 23 “(2) Individuals who are entitled to educational
- 24 assistance under this chapter by reason of para-
- 25 graph (1) or (2) of section 3311(b) of this title.

1 “(d) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall
 2 pay to each eligible individual who receives additional ben-
 3 efits under this section a one-time, lump sum payment
 4 that is the lesser of the following amounts (adjusted with
 5 respect to the individual pursuant to paragraphs (2)
 6 through (7) of section 3313(c), as appropriate):

7 “(1) The amount payable under section 3313 of
 8 this title for nine months of the program of edu-
 9 cation in which the individual is enrolled.

10 “(2) \$30,000.

11 “(e) PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER.—An individual
 12 who receives additional benefits under this section may not
 13 transfer any amount of such additional benefits under sec-
 14 tion 3319 of this title.

15 “(f) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF TOTAL ASSISTANCE.—
 16 The total amount of benefits paid to all eligible individuals
 17 under this section may not exceed \$100,000,000 for any
 18 fiscal year.”.

19 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 20 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
 21 after the item relating to section 3319 the following new
 22 item:

“3320. Additional benefits.”.

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