

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2868

To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that veterans may attend pre-apprenticeship programs using certain educational assistance provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 14, 2019

Ms. MCSALLY 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 ensure that veterans may attend pre-apprenticeship programs using certain educational assistance provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, 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 “Veterans’ Entry to
5 Apprenticeship Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROGRAMS OF PRE-APPRENTICESHIP.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 36 of title 38, United
3 States Code, is amended by adding after section 3687 the
4 following new section:

5 **“§ 3687A. Programs of pre-apprenticeship**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), and
7 except as provided by subsection (c), the Secretary shall
8 treat a pre-apprenticeship program as a program of ap-
9 prenticeship for purposes of providing educational assist-
10 ance.

11 “(b) APPROVAL OF PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PRO-
12 GRAM.—A pre-apprenticeship program may be covered
13 under subsection (a)—

14 “(1) if the program is recognized under or com-
15 pliant with any standards for a postsecondary pre-
16 apprenticeship program required by the State in
17 which the program is located; or

18 “(2) in the case of a program for which a State
19 does not require any such standards, if—

20 “(A) the curriculum of the program is ap-
21 proved by a sponsor and the sponsor certifies to
22 the Secretary that the program will prepare an
23 individual with skills and competencies needed
24 to enroll in a registered apprenticeship pro-
25 gram; and

1 “(B) the program maintains conduct and
2 attendance policies in accordance with a spon-
3 sor.

4 “(c) BENEFITS.—The educational assistance received
5 by a covered individual enrolled in a pre-apprenticeship
6 program under subsection (a) shall be equal to the amount
7 and kind of such assistance received by the individual if
8 the individual were enrolled in a program of apprentice-
9 ship, except that if the individual is not paid as part of
10 such program, each monthly allowance for housing payable
11 to the individual under such assistance shall be an amount
12 equal to the monthly amount of the basic allowance for
13 housing payable under section 403 of title 37 for a mem-
14 ber with dependents in pay grade E-5 residing in the mili-
15 tary housing area that encompasses all or the majority
16 portion of the ZIP code area in which is located the pre-
17 apprenticeship program.

18 “(d) CHARGE TO ENTITLEMENT.—The entitlement
19 of a covered individual pursuing a pre-apprenticeship pro-
20 gram under subsection (a) shall be charged at a rate equal
21 to the rate charged if the program were a program of ap-
22 prenticeship.

23 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 “(1) The term ‘covered individual’ means an in-
25 dividual who is—

1 “(A) entitled to educational assistance; and

2 “(B) seeking to use such assistance for a
3 program of apprenticeship.

4 “(2) The term ‘educational assistance’ means
5 educational assistance provided under chapter 30,
6 32, 33, 34, or 35 of this title or chapter 1606 of
7 title 10.

8 “(3) The term ‘pre-apprenticeship program’
9 means a program or set of objectives—

10 “(A) designed to prepare individuals to
11 enter and succeed in a registered apprenticeship
12 program; and

13 “(B) that has a documented partnership
14 with at least one sponsor.

15 “(4) The term ‘registered apprenticeship pro-
16 gram’ means an apprenticeship program registered
17 with the Office of Apprenticeship of the Employment
18 Training Administration of the Department of
19 Labor or a State apprenticeship agency recognized
20 by the Office of Apprenticeship pursuant to the Act
21 of August 16, 1937 (popularly known as the ‘Na-
22 tional Apprenticeship Act’; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

23 “(5) The term ‘sponsor’, with respect to a pre-
24 apprenticeship program, means an entity that for-

1 mally supports the pre-apprenticeship program, in-
 2 cluding—

3 “(A) a registered apprenticeship program;

4 “(B) a department or agency of a State or
 5 local government;

6 “(C) an institution of higher learning; or

7 “(D) any other public, private, or nonprofit
 8 entity that the Secretary determines to be a
 9 sponsor for purposes of this section.”.

10 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 11 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
 12 after the item relating to section 3687 the following new
 13 item:

“3687A. Programs of pre-apprenticeship.”.

14 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 3687A of title 38,
 15 United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall
 16 apply with respect to an individual who enrolls in a pro-
 17 gram of pre-apprenticeship described in such section be-
 18 ginning on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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