

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9517

To direct the Secretary of Education to deem each month for which certain Federal student loans are in deferment during a period of active duty service as months counted toward public service loan forgiveness, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Ms. ADAMS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, 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 direct the Secretary of Education to deem each month for which certain Federal student loans are in deferment during a period of active duty service as months counted toward public service loan forgiveness, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. ACTIVE DUTY DEFERMENT PERIODS COUNTED**
2 **TOWARD PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVE-**
3 **NESS.**

4 Section 455(m) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
5 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(m)) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through
7 (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively;

8 (2) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding
9 subparagraph (A), by striking “paragraph (2)” and
10 inserting “paragraph (3)”; and

11 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(2) ACTIVE DUTY DEFERMENT PERIODS.—
14 Notwithstanding any other provision of this sub-
15 section, the Secretary shall deem each month for
16 which a loan payment was in deferment under sub-
17 section (f)(2) of this section or for which a loan pay-
18 ment was in forbearance under section
19 685.205(a)(7) of title 34, Code of Federal Regula-
20 tions (or similar successor regulations), for a bor-
21 rower described in subsection (f)(2)(C) as if the bor-
22 rower of the loan had made a payment for the pur-
23 pose of public service loan forgiveness under this
24 subsection.”.

1 **SEC. 2. ENSURING ACCESS TO CERTAIN HIGHER EDU-**
2 **CATION BENEFITS.**

3 (a) **DATA MATCHING REQUIRED.**—Not later than
4 one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and
5 on an annual basis thereafter, the Secretary of Defense
6 and the Secretary of Education shall jointly complete a
7 data matching process—

8 (1) to identify each individual who, while serv-
9 ing as a covered employee of the Department of De-
10 fense, made one or more student loan payments eli-
11 gible to be counted for purposes of the Public Serv-
12 ice Loan Forgiveness program under section 455(m)
13 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
14 1087e(m)); and

15 (2) without requiring further information or ac-
16 tion from such individual—

17 (A) to certify the total period of such em-
18 ployment for purposes of such program; and

19 (B) to count the total number of qualifying
20 payments made by the individual for purposes
21 of such program during such period.

22 (b) **COVERED EMPLOYEE DEFINED.**—In this section,
23 the term “covered employee” means an individual who, at
24 any time beginning on or after October 1, 2007, was a
25 member of the Armed Forces serving on active duty for
26 a period of more than 30 consecutive days.

1 **SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

2 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
3 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Sec-
4 retary of Education shall jointly submit to Congress a re-
5 port that includes—

6 (1) an update on the status of the implementa-
7 tion of sections 1 and 2; and

8 (2) recommendations for other actions that may
9 be taken to improve the treatment of members of
10 the Armed Forces and civilian personnel of the De-
11 partment of Defense under the public service loan
12 forgiveness program, including any additional re-
13 sources or authorities that may be needed to carry
14 out such recommendations.

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