

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall—

“(A) procure the most life-cycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting systems; and

“(B) ensure that procurements after the date of enactment of the BRIGHT Act of lighting systems or the individual components of lighting systems maximize life-cycle cost effectiveness and energy efficiency.

“(2) USE.—Each public building constructed, altered, acquired, or leased by the Administrator shall be equipped, to the maximum extent practicable as determined by the Administrator, with the most life-cycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting systems for each application.

“(c) MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS.—Each individual component of a lighting system, including a lamp or fixture, that is replaced by the Administrator in the normal course of maintenance of public buildings shall be replaced, to the maximum extent practicable, with the most life-cycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting system possible for the application.

“(d) CONSIDERATIONS.—

“(1) CONTRACTING OPTIONS.—In carrying out this section, the Administrator shall consider appropriate contracting options for the procurement of the most life-cycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting systems.

“(2) PROCUREMENT AND USE.—In making a determination under this section concerning the practicability of procuring and installing the most life-cycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting system, the Administrator shall consider—

“(A) the compatibility of the lighting system with existing equipment, including consideration of a cost effective retrofit;

“(B) whether procurement and use of the lighting system could result in interference with productivity;

“(C) the aesthetics relating to the use of the lighting system; and

“(D) such other factors as the Administrator determines to be appropriate.

“(e) LIFE-CYCLE COST EFFECTIVE.—The Administrator shall use the procedures and methods established under section 544(a) of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8254(a)) in determining whether a lighting system is life-cycle cost effective.”;

(4) in subsection (f) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “lighting fixture or bulb” and inserting “lighting system”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “the fixture or bulb is” and inserting “the lighting system or the individual components of the lighting system are”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “fixture or bulb” and inserting “lighting system”;

(5) in subsection (g) (as so redesignated), by inserting “procurement and” before “use in public buildings”; and

(6) in subsection (h) (as so redesignated), by inserting “procurement and” before “use of energy efficient”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 33 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 3313 and inserting the following:

“3313. Procurement of life-cycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting systems.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 442.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 442, the BRIGHT Act. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee marked up the companion bill, H.R. 7636, introduced by Representative TITUS, earlier this summer.

This legislation encourages the General Services Administration to use the most up-to-date and efficient lighting for all routine maintenance, alterations, and construction and gives GSA the flexibility to choose the most efficient option for each installation.

Additionally, this bill asks that GSA provide guidance to Federal agencies and State, local, and Tribal entities on how cost-effective and energy-efficient lighting systems can help achieve broader efficiency goals.

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While the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 did include guidelines for energy-efficient light bulb utilization, GSA managers are not incentivized to choose the most energy and cost-efficient options in procurements.

By directing GSA to acquire and use the most cost-and energy-efficient lighting systems practicable over the life cycles of the systems, this legislation aims to maximize resource conservation and use of taxpayer dollars in all GSA lighting procurements.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 442, the BRIGHT Act, ensures the General Services Administration, GSA, updates building lighting systems with the most life cycle cost-effective and energy-efficient options, so long as the change does not interfere with productivity and is a cost-effective retrofit.

It also requires GSA to issue guidance to other Federal agencies on deploying these lighting systems and make the information available to State, local, and Tribal government entities.

Updating outdated lighting systems with the most cost-effective and energy-efficient options will lessen the Federal Government's energy bill, saving taxpayers money. Efficient lighting systems tend to be lower-cost solutions with higher return on investment. This is commonsense legislation that ensures that lighting updates are made only if a retrofit is cost-effective.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS).

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, based on the bipartisan backing in the House and the Senate, I think it is appropriate to say we can call this bill a bright idea. It will make public buildings more energy efficient and ensure that taxpayer dollars are being spent as judiciously as possible.

Simply put, the BRIGHT Act directs the GSA to procure the most life cycle cost-effective and energy-efficient lighting in public buildings to the extent practicable.

Recognizing that each installation is unique, and that technology is ever changing, this bill doesn't endorse, nor does it prohibit any specific technology, but rather, guides the GSA to purchase and pursue the most efficient option which will save millions when fully implemented.

For example, simply replacing compact fluorescent downlight lamps and linear fluorescent lamps with LEDs could save taxpayers up to \$15.6 million every year.

I am proud to sponsor the House companion to this House Resolution that is led by Senators PETERS and JOHNSON. It promotes taxpayer savings at all levels of government and is good for the planet.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, the BRIGHT Act will implement only cost-effective retrofits that will save taxpayers money and lower the Federal Government's energy bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 442.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

STUDENT VETERAN EMERGENCY RELIEF ACT OF 2022

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 7939) to make permanent certain educational assistance benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in the case of changes to courses of education by reason of emergency situations, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7939

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Student Veteran Emergency Relief Act of 2022”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Educational assistance benefits during emergency situations.
- Sec. 3. Extension of time limitations for use of entitlement.
- Sec. 4. Extension of payment of vocational rehabilitation subsistence allowances.
- Sec. 5. Payment of work-study allowances during emergency situations.
- Sec. 6. Payment of allowances to veterans enrolled in educational institutions closed for emergency situations.
- Sec. 7. Apprenticeship or on-job training requirements.
- Sec. 8. Prohibition of charge to entitlement of students unable to pursue a program of education due to an emergency situation.
- Sec. 9. Department of Veterans Affairs approval of certain study-abroad programs.
- Sec. 10. Eligibility for educational assistance under Department of Veterans Affairs Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of certain individuals who receive sole survivorship discharges.
- Sec. 11. Uniform application for Department of Veterans Affairs approval of courses of education.
- Sec. 12. Notice requirements for Department of Veterans Affairs education surveys.
- Sec. 13. Exception to requirement to submit verification of enrollment of certain individuals.
- Sec. 14. Expansion of eligibility for self-employment assistance under veteran readiness and employment program.
- Sec. 15. Possible definitions of certain terms relating to educational assistance.
- Sec. 16. Department of Veterans Affairs loan fees.
- Sec. 17. Termination of certain consumer contracts by servicemembers and dependents who enter into contracts after receiving military orders for permanent change of station but then receive stop movement orders due to an emergency situation.
- Sec. 18. Residence for tax purposes.
- Sec. 19. Portability of professional licenses of members of the uniformed services and their spouses.
- Sec. 20. Determination of budgetary effects.

SEC. 2. EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS DURING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

- (1) by redesignating subchapters I and II as subchapters II and III, respectively; and
- (2) by inserting before subchapter II, as so redesignated, the following new subchapter:—

“SUBCHAPTER I—EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

“§ 3601. Definition of emergency situation

“In this chapter, the term ‘emergency situation’ means a situation that—

“(1) the President declares is an emergency; and

“(2) the Secretary determines is an emergency for purposes of the laws administered by the Secretary.

“§ 3602. Continuation of educational assistance benefits during emergency situations

“(a) **AUTHORITY.**—If the Secretary determines under subsection (c) that an individual is negatively affected by an emergency situation, the Secretary may provide educational assistance to that individual under the laws administered by the Secretary as if such negative effects did not occur. The authority under this section is in addition to the other authorities of the Secretary to provide benefits in emergency situations, but in no case may the Secretary provide more than a total of four weeks of additional educational assistance by reason of any other such authority and this section.

“(b) **HOUSING AND ALLOWANCES.**—In providing educational assistance to an individual pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary may—

“(1) continue to pay a monthly housing stipend under chapter 33 of this title, during a month the individual would have been enrolled in a program of education or training but for the emergency situation at the same rate such stipend would have been payable if the individual had not been negatively affected by the emergency situation, except that the total number of weeks for which stipends may continue to be so payable may not exceed four weeks; and

“(2) continue to pay payments or subsistence allowances under chapters 30, 31, 32, 33, and 35 of this title and chapter 1606 of title 10 during a month for a period of time that the individual would have been enrolled in a program of education or training but for the emergency situation, except that the total number of weeks for which payments or allowances may continue to be so payable may not exceed four weeks.

“(c) **DETERMINATION OF NEGATIVE EFFECTS.**—The Secretary shall determine that an individual was negatively affected by an emergency situation if—

“(1) the individual is enrolled in a covered program of education of an educational institution or enrolled in training at a training establishment and is pursuing such program or training using educational assistance under the laws administered by the Secretary;

“(2) the educational institution or training establishment certifies to the Secretary that such program or training is truncated, delayed, relocated, canceled, partially canceled, converted from being on-site to being offered by distance learning, or otherwise modified or made unavailable by reason of the emergency situation; and

“(3) the Secretary determines that the modification to such program or training specified under paragraph (2) would reduce the amount of educational assistance (including with respect to monthly housing stipends, payments, or subsistence allowances) that would be payable to the individual but for the emergency situation.

“(d) **EFFECT ON ENTITLEMENT PERIOD.**—If the Secretary determines that an individual who received assistance under this section did not make progress toward the completion of the program of education in which the individual is enrolled during the period for which the individual received such assistance, any assistance provided pursuant to this section shall not be counted for purposes

of determining the total amount of an individual’s entitlement to educational assistance, housing stipends, or payments or subsistence allowances under chapters 30, 31, 32, and 35 of this title and chapter 1606 of title 10.

“§ 3603. Continuation of educational assistance benefits for certain programs of education converted to distance learning by reason of emergency situations

“In the case of a program of education approved by a State approving agency, or the Secretary when acting in the role of a State approving agency, that is converted from being offered on-site at an educational institution or training establishment to being offered by distance learning by reason of an emergency or health-related situation, as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary may continue to provide educational assistance under the laws administered by the Secretary without regard to such conversion, including with respect to paying any—

“(1) monthly housing stipends under chapter 33 of this title; or

“(2) payments or subsistence allowances under chapters 30, 31, 32, and 35 of this title and chapter 1606 of title 10.

“§ 3604. Effects of closure of educational institution and modification of courses by reason of emergency situation

“(a) **CLOSURE OR DISAPPROVAL.**—Any payment of educational assistance described in subsection (b) shall not—

“(1) be charged against any entitlement to educational assistance of the individual concerned; or

“(2) be counted against the aggregate period for which section 3695 of this title limits the receipt of educational assistance by such individual.

“(b) **EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE DESCRIBED.**—Subject to subsection (d), the payment of educational assistance described in this subsection is the payment of such assistance to an individual for pursuit of a course or program of education at an educational institution under chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, or 35 of this title or chapter 1606 of title 10, if the Secretary determines that the individual—

“(1) was unable to complete such course or program as a result of—

“(A) the closure of the educational institution, or the full or partial cancellation of a course or program of education, by reason of an emergency situation; or

“(B) the disapproval of the course or a course that is a necessary part of that program under this chapter because the course was modified by reason of such emergency; and

“(2) did not receive credit or lost training time, toward completion of the program of education being so pursued.

“(c) **HOUSING ASSISTANCE.**—In this section, educational assistance includes, as applicable—

“(1) monthly housing stipends payable under chapter 33 of this title for any month the individual would have been enrolled in a course or program of education; and

“(2) payments or subsistence allowances under chapters 30, 31, 32, and 35 of this title and chapter 1606 of title 10 during a month the individual would have been enrolled in a course or program of education.

“(d) **PERIOD NOT CHARGED.**—The period for which, by reason of this section, educational assistance is not charged against entitlement or counted toward the applicable aggregate period under section 3695 of this title shall not exceed the aggregate of—

“(1) the portion of the period of enrollment in the course from which the individual did not receive credit or with respect to which the individual lost training time, as determined under subsection (b)(2); and

“(2) the period by which a monthly stipend is extended under section 3680(a)(2)(B) of this title.

“(e) CONTINUING PURSUIT OF DISAPPROVED COURSES.—(1) The Secretary may treat a course of education that is disapproved under this chapter as being approved under this chapter with respect to an individual described in paragraph (2) if the Secretary determines, on a programmatic basis, that—

“(A) such disapproval is the result of an action described in subsection (b)(1)(B); and

“(B) continuing pursuing such course is in the best interest of the individual.

“(2) An individual described in this paragraph is an individual who is pursuing a course of education at an educational institution under chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, or 35 of this title or chapter 1606 of title 10, as of the date on which the course is disapproved as described in subsection (b)(1)(B).

“(f) STATUS AS FULL-TIME STUDENT FOR PURPOSES OF HOUSING STIPEND CALCULATION.—In the case of an individual who, as of the first day of an emergency situation was enrolled on a full-time basis in a program of education and was receiving educational assistance under chapter 33 of this title or subsistence allowance under chapter 31 of this title, and for whom the Secretary makes a determination under subsection (b), the individual shall be treated as an individual enrolled in a program of education on a full-time basis for the purpose of calculating monthly housing stipends payable under chapter 33 of this title, or subsistence allowance payable under chapter 31 of this title, for any month the individual is enrolled in the program of education on a part-time basis to complete any course of education that was partially or fully canceled by reason of the emergency situation.

“(g) NOTICE OF CLOSURES.—Not later than 5 business days after the date on which the Secretary receives notice that an educational institution will close or is closed by reason of an emergency situation, the Secretary shall provide to each individual who is enrolled in a course or program of education at such educational institution using entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, or 35 of this title, or chapter 1606 of title 10 notice of—

“(1) such closure and the date of such closure; and

“(2) the effect of such closure on the individual's entitlement to educational assistance pursuant to this section.

“§ 3605. Payment of educational assistance in cases of withdrawal

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any individual who withdraws from a program of education or training, other than a program by correspondence, in an educational institution under chapter 31, 34, or 35 of this title for a covered reason during the period of an emergency situation, the Secretary shall find mitigating circumstances for purposes of section 3680(a)(1)(C)(ii) of this title.

“(b) COVERED REASON.—In this section, the term ‘covered reason’ means any reason related to an emergency situation, including—

“(1) illness, quarantine, or social distancing requirements;

“(2) issues associated with accessibility;

“(3) access or availability of childcare;

“(4) providing care for a family member or cohabitants;

“(5) change of location or residence due to the emergency situation or associated school closures;

“(6) employment changes or financial hardship; and

“(7) issues associated with changes in format or medium of instruction.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to subchapter II and inserting the following new item:

“SUBCHAPTER III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS”.

(2) by striking the item relating to subchapter I and inserting the following new item:

“SUBCHAPTER II—STATE APPROVING AGENCIES”.

(3) by inserting before the item relating to subchapter II the following new items:

“SUBCHAPTER I—EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

“3601. Definition of emergency situation.

“3602. Continuation of educational assistance benefits during emergency situations.

“3603. Continuation of educational assistance benefits for certain programs of education converted to distance learning by reason of emergency situations.

“3604. Effects of closure of educational institution and modification of courses by reason of emergency situation.

“3605. Payment of educational assistance in cases of withdrawal.”.

(c) CONFORMING REPEALS.—The following provisions of law are repealed:

(1) Sections 1102, 1103, and 1104 of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-315).

(2) Public Law 116-128.

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF TIME LIMITATIONS FOR USE OF ENTITLEMENT.

(a) MONTGOMERY GI BILL.—Section 3031 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(i) In the case of an individual eligible for educational assistance under this chapter who is prevented from pursuing the individual's chosen program of education before the expiration of the 10-year period for the use of entitlement under this chapter otherwise applicable under this section because the educational institution or training establishment closed (temporarily or permanently) under an established policy based on an Executive order of the President or due to an emergency situation, such 10-year period—

“(1) shall not run during the period the individual is so prevented from pursuing such program; and

“(2) shall again begin running on the first day after the individual is able to resume pursuit of a program of education with educational assistance under this chapter.”.

(b) POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3321(b)(1) of such title is amended—

(A) by inserting “(A)” before “Subsections”; and

(B) by striking “and (d)” and inserting “(d), and (i)”; and by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(B) Subsection (i) of section 3031 shall apply with respect to the running of the 15-year period described in paragraphs (4)(A) and (5)(A) of this subsection in the same manner as such subsection applies under section 3031 with respect to the running of the 10-year period described in section 3031(a).”.

(2) TRANSFER PERIOD.—Section 3319(h)(5) of such title is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A) by inserting “or (C)” after “subparagraph (B)”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.—In any case in which the Secretary determines that an individual to whom entitlement is transferred under this section has been prevented from pursuing the individual's chosen program of education before the individual at-

tains the age of 26 years because the educational institution or training establishment closed (temporarily or permanently) under an established policy based on an Executive order of the President or due to an emergency situation, the Secretary shall extend the period during which the individual may use such entitlement for a period equal to the number of months that the individual was so prevented from pursuing the program of education, as determined by the Secretary.”.

(c) VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND TRAINING.—

(1) PERIOD FOR USE.—Section 3103 of such title is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “or (g)” and inserting “(g), or (h)”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) In any case in which the Secretary determines that a veteran has been prevented from participating in a vocational rehabilitation program under this chapter within the twelve-year period of eligibility prescribed in subsection (a) due to an emergency situation, such twelve-year period—

“(1) shall not run during the period the individual is so prevented from participating such program; and

“(2) shall again begin running on the first day after the individual is able to resume participation in such program.”.

(2) DURATION OF PROGRAM.—Section 3105(b) of such title is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (2) and (3)”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3)(A) In any case in which the Secretary determines that a veteran has been prevented from participating in counseling and placement and postplacement services described in section 3104(a)(2) and (5) of this title due to an emergency situation, the Secretary shall extend the period during which the Secretary may provide such counseling and placement and postplacement services for the veteran for a period equal to the number of months that the veteran was so prevented from participating in such counseling and services, as determined by the Secretary.

“(B) In any case in which the Secretary determines that a veteran has been prevented from participating in a vocational rehabilitation program under this chapter due to an emergency situation, the Secretary shall extend the period of the veteran's vocational rehabilitation program for a period equal to the number of months that the veteran was so prevented from participating in the vocational rehabilitation program, as determined by the Secretary.”.

(d) EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR MEMBERS OF THE SELECTED RESERVE.—Section 16133(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) In any case in which the Secretary concerned determines that a person entitled to educational assistance under this chapter has been prevented from using such person's entitlement due to an emergency situation, the Secretary concerned shall extend the period of entitlement prescribed in subsection (a) for a period equal to the number of months that the person was so prevented from using such entitlement, as determined by the Secretary.”.

(e) EMERGENCY SITUATION DEFINED.—

(1) POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Section 3301 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) The term ‘emergency situation’ has the meaning given such term in section 3601 of this title.”.

(2) MGIB.—Section 3002 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(9) The term ‘emergency situation’ has the meaning given such term in section 3601 of this title.”

(3) VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND TRAINING.—Section 3101 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(10) The term ‘emergency situation’ has the meaning given such term in section 3601 of this title.”

(4) EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR MEMBERS OF THE SELECTED RESERVE.—Section 16133 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) The term ‘emergency situation’ has the meaning given such term in section 3601 of title 38.”

(f) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 6 of the Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-140) is repealed.

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF PAYMENT OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3104 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) In the case of any veteran whom the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines is satisfactorily following a program of employment services provided under subsection (a)(5) during the period of an emergency situation, the Secretary may pay the veteran a subsistence allowance, as prescribed in section 3108 of this title for full-time training for the type of program that the veteran was pursuing, for two additional months, if the Secretary determines that the veteran is negatively affected by the emergency situation.”

(b) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 8 of the Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-140) is repealed.

SEC. 5. PAYMENT OF WORK-STUDY ALLOWANCES DURING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3485 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f)(1) In case of an individual who is in receipt of work-study allowance pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (a)(3) as of the date on which an emergency situation occurs and who is unable to continue to perform qualifying work-study activities described in subsection (a)(4) by reason of the emergency situation—

“(A) the Secretary may continue to pay work-study allowance under this section or make deductions described in subsection (e)(1) during the period of such emergency situation, notwithstanding the inability of the individual to perform such work-study activities by reason of such emergency situation; and

“(B) at the option of the individual, the Secretary shall extend the agreement described in subsection (a)(3) with the individual for any subsequent period of enrollment initiated during the emergency situation, notwithstanding the inability of the individual to perform work-study activities described in subsection (a)(4) by reason of such emergency situation.

“(2) The amount of work-study allowance payable to an individual under paragraph (1)(A) during the period of an emergency situation shall be an amount determined by the Secretary but may not exceed the amount that would be payable under subsection (a)(2) if the individual worked 25 hours per week paid during such period.

“(3) The term ‘emergency situation’ has the meaning given that term in section 3601 of this title.”

(b) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 3 of the Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-140) is repealed.

SEC. 6. PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES TO VETERANS ENROLLED IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS CLOSED FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3680 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) PAYMENTS DURING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.—(1) The Secretary may pay allowances to an eligible veteran or eligible person under subsection (a)(2)(A), if the veteran or person is enrolled in a program or course of education that—

“(A) is provided by an educational institution or training establishment that is closed by reason of an emergency situation; or

“(B) is suspended by reason of an emergency situation.

“(2) The total number of weeks for which allowances may be paid by reason of this subsection may not exceed four weeks.

“(3) Any amount paid under this subsection shall not be counted for purposes of the limitation on allowances under subsection (a)(2)(A).”

(b) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 4 of the Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-140) is repealed.

SEC. 7. APPRENTICESHIP OR ON-JOB TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3687(e) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following new paragraph (2):

“(2)(A) Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), for any month in which an individual fails to complete 120 hours of training, the entitlement otherwise chargeable under paragraph (1) shall be reduced in the same proportion as the monthly training assistance allowance payable is reduced under subsection (b)(3).

“(B) In the case of an individual who is unemployed by reason of an emergency situation during any month, the 120-hour requirement under subparagraph (A) for that month shall be reduced proportionately to reflect the individual’s period of unemployment, except that the amount of monthly training assistance otherwise payable to the individual under subsection (b)(3) shall not be reduced.

“(C) Any period during which an individual is unemployed by reason of an emergency situation shall not—

“(i) be charged against any entitlement to educational assistance of the individual; or

“(ii) be counted against the aggregate period for which section 3695 of this title limits the receipt of educational assistance by such individual.

“(D) Any amount by which the entitlement of an individual is reduced under subparagraph (A) shall not—

“(i) be charged against any entitlement to educational assistance of the individual; or

“(ii) be counted against the aggregate period for which section 3695 of this title limits the receipt of educational assistance by such individual.

“(E) In the case of an individual who fails to complete 120 hours of training during a month, but who completed more than 120 hours of training during the preceding month, the individual may apply the number of hours in excess of 120 that the individual completed for that month to the month for which the individual failed to complete 120 hours. If the addition of such excess hours results in a total of 120 hours or more, the individual shall be treated as an individual who has completed 120 hours of training for that month. Any excess hours applied to a different month under this subparagraph may only be applied to one such month.

“(F) This paragraph applies to amounts described in section 3313(g)(3)(B)(iv) and section 3032(c)(2) of this title and section 16131(d)(2) of title 10.

“(G) In this paragraph:

“(i) The term ‘unemployed’ includes being furloughed or being scheduled to work zero hours.

“(ii) The term ‘fails to complete 120 hours of training’ means, with respect to an individual, that during any month, the individual completes at least one hour, but fewer than 120 hours, of training, including in a case in which the individual is unemployed for part of, but not the whole, month.”

(b) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 1106 of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-315) is repealed.

SEC. 8. PROHIBITION OF CHARGE TO ENTITLEMENT OF STUDENTS UNABLE TO PURSUE A PROGRAM OF EDUCATION DUE TO AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.

(a) PERMANENT APPLICABILITY.—Section 3699(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking “and” at the end and inserting “or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) the temporary closure of an educational institution or training establishment or the temporary closure or termination of a course or program of education by reason of an emergency situation; and”

(b) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 5 of the Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-140) is repealed.

SEC. 9. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROVAL OF CERTAIN STUDY-ABROAD PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3680A(f) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

(2) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting “(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2)(A) In the case of a covered study-abroad course, the Secretary may approve the course for a period of not more than five years, if the contract or other written agreement under which the course is offered provides that—

“(i) the educational institution that offers a course that is approved under this chapter agrees to—

“(I) assume responsibility for the quality and content of the covered study-abroad course; and

“(II) serve as the certifying official for the course for purposes of this chapter; and

“(ii) the educational institution that offers the covered study-abroad course agrees to seek the approval of the course under this chapter by not later than five years after the date of the agreement.

“(B) In this paragraph, the term ‘covered study-abroad course’ means a course that—

“(i) is provided as a part of a program of education offered by an educational institution under a contract or other written agreement by another educational institution that offers a course that is approved under this chapter;

“(ii) is provided at a location in a foreign country; and

“(iii) has not been approved under this chapter.”

(b) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN COURSES.—In the case of any covered study-abroad course, under the meaning given such term in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) of subsection

(f) of section 3680A of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), that is being offered under a contract or other written agreement as of the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may approve such course under such paragraph (2) for the five-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, if such contract or other written agreement meets the criteria provided in subparagraph (A) of such paragraph.

SEC. 10. ELIGIBILITY FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE UNDER DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WHO RECEIVE SOLE SURVIVORSHIP DISCHARGES.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Sgt. Wolf Kyle Weninger Veterans Education Fairness Act of 2022”.

(b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—Subsection (b)(2) of section 3311 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “who”;

(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii);

(3) by inserting before clause (i), as so redesignated, the following new subparagraph (A):

“(A) who—”;

(4) in clause (ii), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking “subparagraph (A)” and inserting “clause (i)”;

(B) by striking the period and inserting “or by reason of a sole survivorship discharge (as that term is defined in section 1174(i) of title 10); or”;

(5) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph (B):

“(B) who—

“(i) commencing on or after September 11, 2001, completes at least 30 continuous days of service described in subsection (d) (1) or (2); and

“(ii) after completion of service described in clause (i), is discharged or released by reason of a sole survivorship discharge (as that term is defined in section 1174(i) of title 10).”.

(c) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Subsection (d) of such section is amended by striking “The following” and inserting “Except as provided in subsection (b)(2)(B), the following”.

SEC. 11. UNIFORM APPLICATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROVAL OF COURSES OF EDUCATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subchapter I of chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3672 the following new section:

“§ 3672A. Uniform application

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—(1) The Secretary, in partnership with State approving agencies, educational institutions, and training establishments, shall require the use of a uniform application by any educational institution or training establishment seeking the approval of a new course of education under this chapter.

“(2) The Secretary shall maintain one uniform application for institutions of higher learning and one such application for other educational institutions and training establishments.

“(3) In the case of any State that uses approval criteria not covered by a uniform application under this section, the State approving agency for that State shall require the use of the uniform application and may require the submittal of additional information.

“(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The uniform application required under subsection (a) shall meet the following requirements:

“(1) A requirement that the appropriate executive of the educational institution or training establishment seeking the approval of a course of education attests on behalf of the educational institution or training establishment that the educational institution or training establishment—

“(A) is in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations relating to the approval of courses of education under this chapter; and

“(B) during the five-year period preceding the date of the application—

“(i) has not been subject to, or been party to a contract with any individual or entity that has been subject to, any adverse administrative or judicial action that—

“(I) related to the instruction or training, including with respect to the quality of education, provided by the institution or establishment; and

“(II) resulted in a fine or penalty in an amount equal to or more than five percent of the amount of funding provided to the institution or establishment under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 for the fiscal year preceding the year in which the application is submitted; or

“(ii) has not employed an individual, or been party to a contract with any individual or entity, that has been convicted of a Federal fraud charge related to the instruction or training provided by the institution or establishment.

“(2) In the case of any educational institution or training establishment that is not participating in title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, a requirement for the inclusion of—

“(A) a copy of—

“(i) the articles of incorporation filed on behalf of the institution or establishment or proof of licensing to operate as an educational institution or training establishment in the State where the institution or establishment is located; and

“(ii) the financial position of the institution or establishment, as prepared by an appropriate third-party entity; or

“(B) other adequate evidence, as determined by the Secretary, that the institution or establishment is authorized to provide post-secondary education or training in the State where the institution or establishment is located.

“(3) In the case of any course of education that is offered by an educational institution or training establishment that has never offered a course of education that was approved under this chapter, a requirement for the inclusion of information about the course of education covered by the application, including—

“(A) the number of students who have entered and graduated from the course during the preceding two-year period; and

“(B) if available, the cohort default rate for funds provided to the institution or establishment under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

“(4) In the case of any educational institution or training establishment that is not an institution of higher learning, a requirement for the inclusion of—

“(A) a list of individuals who will serve as fully qualified instructors for the course of education, as of the date of the application, and an attestation that such individuals—

“(i) have a degree or other training, as appropriate, in the field of the course;

“(ii) effectively teach the skills offered under the course; and

“(iii) have demonstrated relevant industry experience in the field of the course; and

“(B) a list of individuals who will serve as career services employees for students enrolled in the course and an attestation that such individuals are skilled at identifying

professions in the relevant industry that are in need of new employees to hire, tailoring the course of education to meet market needs, and identifying the employers likely to hire graduates.

“(c) **REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE APPROVING AGENCIES.**—During the approval process with respect to a uniform application submitted by an educational institution or training establishment, a State approving agency, or the Secretary when acting in the role of a State approving agency, shall contact the Secretary of Education to determine whether the course of education subject to such approval process has withdrawn, or been denied or suspended, from receiving for benefits under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

“(d) **APPROPRIATE EXECUTIVE.**—In this section, the appropriate executive of an educational institution or training establishment is a senior executive official, senior administrator, owner, or operator designated by the institution or establishment.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3672 the following new item:

“3672A. Uniform application.”.

(c) **APPLICABILITY.**—The application required by section 3672A of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall—

(1) be developed by not later than October 1, 2023; and

(2) be required for the approval of any new course of education proposed on or after that day.

SEC. 12. NOTICE REQUIREMENTS FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EDUCATION SURVEYS.

(a) **RISK-BASED SURVEY.**—Section 3673A of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) **NOTICE.**—To the maximum amount feasible, the Secretary, or a State approving agency, as applicable, shall provide not more than one business day of notice to an educational institution before conducting a targeted risk-based survey of the institution under this section.”.

(b) **COMPLIANCE SURVEYS.**—Section 3693 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

“(c) To the maximum extent feasible, the Secretary, or a State approving agency, as applicable, shall provide not more than ten business days of notice to an educational institution or training establishment before conducting a compliance survey of the institution or establishment under this section.”.

SEC. 13. EXCEPTION TO REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT VERIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.

Section 3313(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “The Secretary” and inserting “Except as provided in paragraph (4), the Secretary”;

(2) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following new paragraph (4):

“(4) **EXCEPTION.**—An educational institution is not required to submit verification of an individual under paragraph (1)(A) if—

“(A) the individual is enrolled in a course or program of education offered by the educational institution on at least a full-time basis before the date on which the individual is able to withdraw from the course or program of education without penalty;

“(B) the educational institution charges the same amount of tuition and fees for students who are enrolled on a full-time basis

and students who are enrolled on a more-than-full-time basis; and

“(C) the individual remains enrolled in the course or program of education after the date on which the individual is able to withdraw from the course or program of education without penalty.”.

SEC. 14. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SELF-EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE UNDER VETERAN READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM.

(a) **EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY.**—Paragraph (12) of subsection (a) of section 3104 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(12) Such license fees and essential equipment, supplies, and minimum stocks of materials as the Secretary determines to be necessary for a veteran to begin self-employment and are within the criteria and cost limitations that the Secretary shall prescribe in regulations for the furnishing of such fees, equipment, supplies, and stocks.”.

(b) **PRIORITY.**—Subsection (c)(1) of such section is amended by inserting before the first period the following: “, including with respect to providing priority for services under subsection (a)(12) to veterans with the most severe service-connected disabilities who require homebound training or self-employment, or both homebound training and self-employment”.

(c) **TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**—Section 3117 of such title is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)(C), by striking “this clause” and inserting “this subparagraph”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “insure” and inserting “ensure”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “clause” both places it appears and inserting “paragraph”.

SEC. 15. POSSIBLE DEFINITIONS OF CERTAIN TERMS RELATING TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report containing possible definitions of the Secretary for each of the following terms:

- (1) Student services.
- (2) Marketing.
- (3) Classroom instruction.

SEC. 16. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS LOAN FEES.

The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “January 14, 2031” each place it appears and inserting “January 19, 2031”.

SEC. 17. TERMINATION OF CERTAIN CONSUMER CONTRACTS BY SERVICEMEMBERS AND DEPENDENTS WHO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS AFTER RECEIVING MILITARY ORDERS FOR PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION BUT THEN RECEIVE STOP MOVEMENT ORDERS DUE TO AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 305A of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. 3956) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “TELEPHONE, MULTICHANNEL VIDEO PROGRAMMING, AND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE” and inserting “CERTAIN CONSUMER”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the heading, by adding “OR DEPENDENT OF A SERVICEMEMBER” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “after the date the servicemember receives military orders to relocate for a period of not less than 90 days to a location that does not support the contract.” and inserting “after—”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(A) the date the servicemember receives military orders to relocate for a period of

not less than 90 days to a location that does not support the contract; or

“(B) the date the servicemember, while in military service, receives military orders for a permanent change of station, thereafter enters into the contract, and then receives a stop movement order issued by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Homeland Security in response to a local, national, or global emergency, effective for an indefinite period or for a period of not less than 30 days, that prevents the servicemember from using the services provided under the contract.”; and

(C) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) The spouse or dependent of a servicemember, described in paragraph (1)(B), who accompanies such servicemember during the period of relocation.”;

(3) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) **COVERED CONTRACTS.**—A contract described in this subsection is a contract—

“(1) for—

“(A) commercial mobile service;

“(B) telephone exchange service;

“(C) internet access service;

“(D) multichannel video programming service;

“(E) a gym membership or fitness program; or

“(F) home security services; and

“(2) entered into by a servicemember before receiving the military orders referred to in subsection (a)(1).”; and

(4) in subsection (g)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) as paragraphs (3), (4), and (5), respectively; and

(B) by inserting, after paragraph (1), the following new paragraph (2):

“(2) The terms ‘military orders’ and ‘permanent change of station’ have the meanings given such terms in section 305.”.

(b) **RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to stop movement orders issued on or after March 1, 2020.

SEC. 18. RESIDENCE FOR TAX PURPOSES.

Section 511(a) of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. 4001(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) **SPOUSES.**—A spouse of a servicemember shall neither lose nor acquire a residence or domicile for purposes of taxation with respect to the person, personal property, or income of the spouse by reason of being absent or present in any tax jurisdiction of the United States solely to be with the servicemember in compliance with the servicemember's military orders.

“(3) **ELECTION.**—For any taxable year of the marriage, a servicemember and the spouse of such servicemember may elect to use for purposes of taxation, regardless of the date on which the marriage of the servicemember and the spouse occurred, any of the following:

“(A) The residence or domicile of the servicemember.

“(B) The residence or domicile of the spouse.

“(C) The permanent duty station of the servicemember.”.

SEC. 19. PORTABILITY OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSES OF MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES AND THEIR SPOUSES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Title VII of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. 4021 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 705 (50 U.S.C. 4025) the following new section:

“SEC. 705A. PORTABILITY OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSES OF SERVICEMEMBERS AND THEIR SPOUSES.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In any case in which a servicemember or the spouse of a servicemember has a covered license and such servicemember or spouse relocates his or her residency because of military orders for military service to a location that is not in the jurisdiction of the licensing authority that issued the covered license, such covered license shall be considered valid at a similar scope of practice and in the discipline applied for in the jurisdiction of such new residency for the duration of such military orders if such servicemember or spouse—

“(1) provides a copy of such military orders to the licensing authority in the jurisdiction in which the new residency is located;

“(2) remains in good standing with—

“(A) the licensing authority that issued the covered license; and

“(B) every other licensing authority that has issued to the servicemember or the spouse of a servicemember a license valid at a similar scope of practice and in the discipline applied in the jurisdiction of such licensing authority;

“(3) submits to the authority of the licensing authority in the new jurisdiction for the purposes of standards of practice, discipline, and fulfillment of any continuing education requirements.

“(b) **INTERSTATE LICENSURE COMPACTS.**—If a servicemember or spouse of a servicemember is licensed and able to operate in multiple jurisdictions through an interstate licensure compact, with respect to services provided in the jurisdiction of the interstate licensure compact by a licensee covered by such compact, the servicemember or spouse of a servicemember shall be subject to the requirements of the compact or the applicable provisions of law of the applicable State and not this section.

“(c) **COVERED LICENSE DEFINED.**—In this section, the term ‘covered license’ means a professional license or certificate—

“(1) that is in good standing with the licensing authority that issued such professional license or certificate;

“(2) that the servicemember or spouse of a servicemember has actively used during the two years immediately preceding the relocation described in subsection (a); and

“(3) that is not a license to practice law.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 705 the following new item:

“Sec. 705A. Portability of professional licenses of servicemembers and their spouses.”.

SEC. 20. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within

which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 7939, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7939, as amended. This comprehensive package from Economic Opportunity Subcommittee Chairman LEVIN includes several improvements for student veterans.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed many flaws in student veteran benefits. We never could have anticipated the need to shift nearly all students to remote learning, but without action, VA would have been forced to cut housing benefits for hundreds of thousands of student veterans nationwide because the students technically were no longer attending classes in person.

However, this committee acted swiftly during 2020, passing several crucial acts, including my Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, which was swiftly signed into law.

These actions meant student veterans were protected from losing their benefits—but only for a limited time. While I am relieved we never left student veterans without their benefits, we came close far too many times.

H.R. 7939, as amended, does away with these artificial benefit cliffs for student veterans and makes permanent many of the veteran protections passed as short-term measures during 2020 and 2021.

That means the next time there is an emergency—be it a flood, tornado, another pandemic, or another event that forces students to take their classes online for a short period of time—VA will be able to fully pay out benefits to student veterans who are forced to attend classes remotely.

I thank Chairman LEVIN of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity for introducing H.R. 7939, as amended, to safeguard these benefits. In addition, included in this legislation is H.R. 5752, also from Chairman LEVIN. This provision will allow servicemembers to get out of contracts they may be wrongly bound to because of their orders.

Families suffered fines, excessive bills, and damage to their credit scores due to circumstances completely outside of their control. Also, from Chairman LEVIN, H.R. 7939, as amended, includes the text from H.R. 7369, the VENTURE Act, which allows more disabled veterans to use the self-employment track for the Veteran Readiness and Employment Program.

Previously, this option was only available to a very small cohort of veterans. The VENTURE Act keeps prioritization of several disabled veterans but also allows additional veterans to pursue this option if they wish.

Finally, this package includes countless additional improvements for stu-

dent veterans such as improving which programs are available for GI bill approval and removing unnecessary red tape for schools so school certifying officials can spend more time with students and less time on paperwork.

This legislation is supported by Disabled American Veterans, Veterans Education Success, Student Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and VA.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7939, as amended, the Student Veteran Emergency Relief Act of 2022.

This is a bipartisan bill led by Chairman LEVIN and Ranking Member MOORE of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. The base text would provide emergency protection for maintaining current GI bill payments for student veterans if a pandemic like COVID-19 hits our country again.

I am supportive of the entire package, but I am especially pleased that five Republican proposals have been included. This bill includes Congressman JOYCE's language that would extend full post-9/11 GI bill benefits to the servicemembers who have been discharged under DOD's sole survivor rules.

A sole survivor discharge is designed to protect the members of a family if they have already lost family members to military service.

This issue directly impacts Congressman JOYCE's constituents, the Weninger family, whose son, Sergeant Weninger, tragically passed away in 2020. I am happy to honor Sergeant Weninger for his service to the United States and provide this benefit to his brother.

I thank his family, Congressman JOYCE, and the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors for bringing this important issue to our attention.

Now, this package also includes text from Congressman MOORE's bill that would improve the way that schools are approved for the GI bill to help prevent waste, fraud, and abuse.

Recently, there has been a rise in schools abusing this benefit. GI bill fraud both takes away a veteran's benefit and wastes taxpayer dollars. This bill would make it much harder for a bad school to be approved for GI bill benefits and well before they could harm veterans.

I thank the Student Veterans of America, the VFW, and Veterans Education Success for assisting us in writing this provision.

I also thank the Office of Inspector General and Inspector General Missal for their hard work in protecting veterans by helping us draft this text.

H.R. 7939, as amended, also includes a GOP proposal that would help improve access to study-abroad programs while using the GI bill.

I thank the Student Veterans of America and other higher education groups for bringing this issue to our attention.

Another proposal in this bill would amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to make it easier for military spouses to transfer licenses across the States.

This bipartisan proposal would allow spouses to transfer their State-based medical and professional license when they move due to their spouse's military orders. This is an important change that would help reduce unemployment among military spouses. I thank Congressman MIKE GARCIA for originally proposing this legislation, and I am pleased to see it in the list of bills today.

The bill also includes the text for H.R. 4702, originally introduced by Congressman CAWTHORN, that would help clarify the State that a military spouse can file taxes in when their family is deployed to another State.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair and the ranking member for their leadership.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of bills here that pertain to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs' jurisdiction. I support a number of those bills—maybe not a couple of them. I certainly appreciate that we are having them down here.

As many people know, the House Freedom Caucus and a number of my other colleagues have simply been raising the issue that we should debate, amend on different issues. We should have a different conversation about how the floor operates so we continue to require roll call votes on a number of bills that might otherwise pass by voice. But in doing so, it is not a statement necessarily always on the content of the legislation in question. We will be making some roll call votes here this afternoon, but I just wanted to make sure, as a member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I make clear my support for a number of these measures, which will obviously be clear in the roll call vote later.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1600

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, again, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 7939, as amended, the Student Veteran Emergency Relief Act of 2022, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7939, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2022

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7846) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2022, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7846

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) **RATE ADJUSTMENT.**—Effective on December 1, 2022, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2022, for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

(b) **AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.**—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) **WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.**—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) **ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.**—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1115(1) of such title.

(3) **CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.**—The dollar amount under section 1162 of such title.

(4) **DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.**—Each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

(5) **DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO CHILDREN.**—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) **DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.**—Each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2022, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(d) **SPECIAL RULE.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section

10 of Public Law 85-857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in section 2(b), as increased under that section, not later than the date on which the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2023.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 7846.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7846, the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2022.

This bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to increase the amounts payable for wartime disability compensation, compensation for dependents, the clothing allowance for certain disabled veterans, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children.

Specifically, VA would be required to increase benefit amounts by the same percentage as the cost-of-living increase in benefits for Social Security recipients.

To me, the cost-of-living adjustment to veterans’ compensation is more than just a rate adjustment tied to inflation. It is a quality-of-life guarantee for veterans and their families.

This annual COLA is not only a source of personal comfort for former servicemembers as they age; it assures that their survivors will not see a decline in earned benefits should the economy fluctuate and costs rise once their beloved veteran is no longer with us. I know this because veterans and their family members from all over the country relay these same exact sentiments to me.

The COLA is the continued recognition by a grateful nation of the service and sacrifice of those who have stepped up to serve. This gesture of appreciation is one of the most rewarding responsibilities of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. As chairman, I am honored to be leading this effort to express our thanks.

I would like to recognize the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs for, once again, originating this legislation for floor

consideration today, and I thank Chair LURIA and Ranking Member NEHLS for their sponsorship and steadfast assistance to our vets.

I am pleased we are voting on this bill early to alleviate any doubt that this adjustment will be in place come December.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly support H.R. 7846, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7846, the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2022. I thank Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Chair LURIA and Ranking Member NEHLS for introducing this bill.

It would increase the rate of disability compensation and DIC compensation for survivors to keep up with the steep rise in the cost of living. This legislation is absolutely vital in the face of rampant inflation, a potential recession, and a high cost of living under the Biden administration.

We must ensure that our veterans are able to pay their bills and put food on the table for their families. If we do not act, our veterans and their families will bear the burden of the careless financial actions of this administration.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to offer my support today, and I hope my colleagues will do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. LURIA). My good friend is the chair of the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee.

Mrs. LURIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7846, the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2022.

With inflation and rising costs impacting Americans across the country, we must continue to ensure that the needs of our disabled veterans and their families are being met.

For the past 4 years, I have been proud to introduce and pass bipartisan cost-of-living adjustments to increase compensation and benefits for our disabled veterans. As chair of the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee and author of this bipartisan legislation, I am, once again, honored to present this year’s annual veterans’ cost-of-living adjustment legislation to the floor.

The Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2022 would, once again, recognize that VA-related compensation requires adjustment in the same way that Social Security benefits are updated to meet the cost-of-living realities. This includes disability compensation, clothing allowance, and dependency and indemnity compensation payments.

Our veterans service organizations understand the realities that many of