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(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 476

To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the process of approving courses of education pursued using educational benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. WENSTRUP introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the process of approving courses of education pursued using educational benefits administered 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 “GI Bill Education
5 Quality Enhancement Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. ROLE OF STATE APPROVING AGENCIES.**

2 (a) APPROVAL OF CERTAIN COURSES.—Section
3 3672(b)(2)(A) of title 38, United States Code, is amended
4 by striking “the following” and all that follows through
5 the colon and inserting the following: “a program of edu-
6 cation is deemed to be approved for purposes of this chap-
7 ter if a State approving agency determines that the pro-
8 gram is one of the following programs:”.

9 (b) APPROVAL OF OTHER COURSES.—Section 3675
10 of such title amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

12 (A) by striking “The Secretary or a State
13 approving agency” and inserting “A State ap-
14 proving agency, or the Secretary when acting in
15 the role of a State approving agency,”; and

16 (B) by striking “offered by proprietary for-
17 profit educational institutions” and inserting
18 “not covered by section 3672 of this title”; and

19 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “the Secretary
20 or the State approving agency” and inserting “the
21 State approving agency, or the Secretary when act-
22 ing in the role of a State approving agency,” each
23 place it appears.

1 **SEC. 3. CRITERIA USED TO APPROVE NONACCREDITED**
2 **COURSES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3676(c)(14) of such title
4 is amended by inserting before the period the following:
5 “if the Secretary, in consultation with the State approving
6 agency and pursuant to regulations prescribed to carry out
7 this paragraph, determines such criteria are necessary and
8 treat public, private, and proprietary for-profit educational
9 institutions equitably”.

10 (b) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by sub-
11 section (a) shall apply with respect to an investigation con-
12 ducted under section 3676(c) of title 38, United States
13 Code, that is covered by a reimbursement of expenses paid
14 by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to a State pursuant
15 to section 3674 of such title on or after the first day of
16 the first fiscal year following the date of the enactment
17 of this Act.

18 **SEC. 4. CLARIFICATION OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED FOR**
19 **CERTAIN FLIGHT TRAINING.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c)(1)(A) of section
21 3313 of such title is amended—

22 (1) in clause (i)—

23 (A) by redesignating subclauses (I) and
24 (II) as items (aa) and (bb), respectively;

25 (B) by striking “In the case of a program
26 of education pursued at a public institution of

1 higher learning” and inserting “(I) Subject to
2 subclause (II), in the case of a program of edu-
3 cation pursued at a public institution of higher
4 learning not described in clause (ii)(II)(bb)”;
5 and

6 (C) by adding at the end the following new
7 subclause:

8 “(II) In determining the actual net
9 cost for in-State tuition and fees pursuant
10 to subclause (I), the Secretary may not
11 pay for fees relating to flight training.”;
12 and

13 (2) in clause (ii)—

14 (A) in subclause (I), by redesignating
15 items (aa) and (bb) as subitems (AA) and
16 (BB), respectively;

17 (B) in subclause (II), by redesignating
18 items (aa) and (bb) as subitems (AA) and
19 (BB), respectively;

20 (C) by redesignating subclauses (I) and
21 (II) as items (aa) and (bb), respectively;

22 (D) by striking “In the case of a program
23 of education pursued at a non-public or foreign
24 institution of higher learning” and inserting

1 “(I) In the case of a program of education de-
2 scribed in subclause (II)”;

3 (E) by adding at the end the following new
4 subclause:

5 “(II) A program of education de-
6 scribed in this subclause is any of the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(aa) A program of education
9 pursued at a non-public or foreign in-
10 stitution of higher learning.

11 “(bb) A program of education
12 pursued at a public institution of
13 higher learning in which flight train-
14 ing is required to earn the degree
15 being pursued (including with respect
16 to a dual major, concentration, or
17 other element of such a degree).”.

18 (b) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by sub-
19 section (a) shall apply with respect to a quarter, semester,
20 or term, as applicable, commencing on or after the date
21 of the enactment of this Act.

22 **SEC. 5. COMPLIANCE SURVEYS.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3693 of such title is
24 amended—

1 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
2 following new subsection (a):

3 “(a)(1) Except as provided in subsection (b), the Sec-
4 retary shall conduct an annual compliance survey of edu-
5 cational institutions and training establishments offering
6 one or more courses approved for the enrollment of eligible
7 veterans or persons if at least 20 such veterans or persons
8 are enrolled in any such course. The Secretary shall—

9 “(A) design the compliance surveys to ensure
10 that such institutions or establishments, as the case
11 may be, and approved courses are in compliance
12 with all applicable provisions of chapters 30 through
13 36 of this title;

14 “(B) survey each such educational institution
15 and training establishment not less than once during
16 every two-year period; and

17 “(C) assign not fewer than one education com-
18 pliance specialist to work on compliance surveys in
19 any year for each 40 compliance surveys required to
20 be made under this section for such year.

21 “(2) The Secretary, in consultation with the State ap-
22 proving agencies, shall—

23 “(A) annually determine the parameters of the
24 surveys required under paragraph (1); and

1 “(B) not later than September 1 of each year,
2 make available to the State approving agencies a list
3 of the educational institutions and training estab-
4 lishments that will be surveyed during the fiscal year
5 following the date of making such list available.”;
6 and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
8 section:

9 “(c) In this section, the terms ‘educational institu-
10 tion’ and ‘training establishment’ have the meaning given
11 such terms in section 3452 of this title.”.

12 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (b) of
13 such section is amended—

14 (1) by striking “subsection (a) of this section
15 for an annual compliance survey” and inserting
16 “subsection (a)(1) for a compliance survey”;

17 (2) by striking “institution” and inserting
18 “educational institution or training establishment”;
19 and

20 (3) by striking “institution’s demonstrated
21 record of compliance” and inserting “record of com-
22 pliance of such institution or establishment”.