

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**  
**TO H.R. 1458**  
**OFFERED BY MR. BOST OF ILLINOIS**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Education  
3 and Technical Skills Opportunity Act of 2025” or the  
4 “VETS Opportunity Act of 2025”.

**5 SEC. 2. REPAYMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES**  
**6                   FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS POST-9/11**  
**7                   EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE: TIMING; MECHA-**  
**8                   NISM FOR INDIVIDUALS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR A**  
**9                   MONTHLY HOUSING STIPEND.**

10       (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (f) of section 3327 of  
11 title 38, United States Code, is amended—

12           (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “together”  
13 and all that follows through “before” and inserting  
14 “not later than 60 days after”; and

15           (2) by adding at the end the following new  
16 paragraph:

17           “(4) ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR AN INDIV-  
18 VIDUAL NOT ELIGIBLE FOR A MONTHLY HOUSING

1       STIPEND.—In the case of an individual making an  
2       election under subsection (a) who is described by  
3       subparagraph (A), (C), or (E) of paragraph (1) of  
4       that subsection, and who is not eligible for a month-  
5       ly stipend payable under section 3313(c) of this title,  
6       the educational assistance payable to the individual  
7       under this chapter shall be paid—

8               “(A) in a lump sum calculated by multi-  
9       plying—

10               “(i) the total amount of contributions  
11               described in paragraph (1)(A) with regards  
12               to such individual; and

13               “(ii) the sum of the number of  
14               months described in subclauses (I) and (II)  
15               of paragraph (1)(B)(i) with regards to  
16               such individual; and

17               “(B) to the individual not later than 60  
18       days after the exhaustion of the individual’s en-  
19       titlement to educational assistance under this  
20       chapter.”.

21       (b) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS AND CONFORMING  
22       AMENDMENT.—Such subsection is further amended—

23               (1) by striking “paragraphs (2) through (7)”  
24       both places it appears and inserting “paragraphs (2)  
25       through (6)”;

(2) in paragraph (1), in the heading, by inserting “FOR AN INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBLE FOR A MONTHLY HOUSING STIPEND” after “ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on August 1, 2025.

**SEC. 3. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAMS UNDER EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3680A(a)(4)(A)(ii)(III) of such title is amended—

(1) by inserting “that requires regular and substantive interaction between students and instructors” after “course of study”;

(2) in item (aa), by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;

(3) in item (bb), by striking “; and” and inserting “; or”; and

(4) by adding at the end by following new item:

“(cc) an institution of higher education, as such term is defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002), that is approved to

1 participate or participating in the  
2 student financial assistance pro-  
3 grams authorized by title IV of  
4 that Act; and”.

5 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by sub-  
6 section (a) shall apply with respect to a quarter, semester,  
7 or term, as applicable, that begins on or after August 1,  
8 2025.

9 **SEC. 4. ABSENCE FROM CERTAIN EDUCATION DUE TO CER-**  
10 **TAIN SERVICE.**

11 (a) OPTIONS.—Section 3691A of such title is amend-  
12 ed by striking paragraph (1) of subsection (a) and insert-  
13 ing the following:

14 “(1) A covered member may, after receiving orders  
15 to enter a period of covered service—

16 “(A) withdraw from covered education;

17 “(B) take a leave of absence from covered edu-  
18 cation; or

19 “(C) subject to subsection (d), enter into an  
20 agreement with the institution concerned to complete  
21 a course of covered education to the satisfaction of  
22 such institution concerned.”.

23 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Such subsection is  
24 further amended, in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “or

1 takes a leave of absence” and inserting “, takes a leave  
2 of absence, or enters into an agreement”.

3 (c) AGREEMENT.—Such section is further amended  
4 by—

5 (1) redesignating subsection (d) as subsection  
6 (e); and

7 (2) by inserting, after subsection (c), the fol-  
8 lowing new subsection (d):

9 “(d) AGREEMENT WITH INSTITUTION CON-  
10 CERNED.—A covered member may enter into an agree-  
11 ment under subsection (a) only if the covered member has  
12 completed at least half of a course of covered education.”.

13 (d) SECTION HEADING.—Such section is further  
14 amended by striking the heading and inserting “**Ab-**  
15 **sence from certain education due to certain**  
16 **service**”.

17 (e) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections at  
18 the beginning of chapter 36 of such title is amended by  
19 striking the item relating to section 3691A and inserting  
20 the following new item:

“3691A. Absence from certain education due to certain service.”.

21 **SEC. 5. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMPLIANCE**  
22 **SURVEYS.**

23 Section 3693 of such title is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) by striking “not more than 10 busi-  
2 ness days of notice”;

3 (B) by striking “this section.” and insert-  
4 ing “this section—”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
6 paragraphs:

7 “(1) in the case of an educational institution or  
8 training establishment with a time stamp database  
9 collection feature, not fewer than 10, and not more  
10 than 15, business days of notice; and

11 “(2) in the case of any other educational insti-  
12 tution or training establishment, not more than 10  
13 business days of notice.”; and

14 (2) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the  
15 following new subsection (d):

16 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 “(1) The terms ‘educational institution’ and  
18 ‘training establishment’ have the meanings given  
19 such terms in section 3452 of this title.

20 “(2) The term ‘school certifying official’ means  
21 an employee of an educational institution with pri-  
22 mary responsibility for certifying veteran enrollment  
23 at the educational institution.”.

1 **SEC. 6. NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL CERTIFYING OFFICIALS**  
2 **OF HANDBOOK UPDATES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 14 business days  
4 after updating the school certifying official handbook of  
5 the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Vet-  
6 erans Affairs shall provide notice to all school certifying  
7 officials of such update.

8 (b) SCHOOL CERTIFYING OFFICIAL DEFINED.—The  
9 term “school certifying official” means an employee of an  
10 educational institution with primary responsibility for cer-  
11 tifying veteran enrollment at the educational institution.

12 **SEC. 7. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF**  
13 **PENSION.**

14 Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code,  
15 is amended by striking “November 30, 2031” and insert-  
16 ing “March 31, 2033”.

