

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3816

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 5, 2023

Mr. JAMES (for himself and Mr. RYAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

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

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans’ Entry to  
5 Apprenticeship Act”.

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

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

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

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

11 “(b) APPROVAL OF PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PRO-  
12 GRAM.—A pre-apprenticeship program may be covered  
13 under subsection (a) in the case of a program for which  
14 a State does not require any such standards, if—

15 “(1) the curriculum of the program is approved  
16 by a sponsor and the sponsor certifies to the Sec-  
17 retary that the program will prepare an individual  
18 with skills and competencies needed to enroll in a  
19 registered apprenticeship program; and

20 “(2) the program maintains conduct and at-  
21 tendance policies in accordance with a sponsor.

22 “(c) BENEFITS.—The educational assistance received  
23 by a covered individual enrolled in a pre-apprenticeship  
24 program under subsection (a) shall be equal to the amount  
25 and kind of such assistance received by the individual if  
26 the individual were enrolled in a program of apprentice-

1 ship, except that if the individual is not paid as part of  
2 such program, each monthly allowance for housing payable  
3 to the individual under chapter 33 of this title shall be  
4 an amount equal to the monthly amount of the basic al-  
5 lowance for housing payable under section 403 of title 37  
6 for a member with dependents in pay grade E-5 residing  
7 in the military housing area that encompasses all or the  
8 majority portion of the ZIP Code area in which is located  
9 the pre-apprenticeship program.

10 “(d) CHARGE TO ENTITLEMENT.—The entitlement  
11 of a covered individual pursuing a pre-apprenticeship pro-  
12 gram under subsection (a) shall be charged at a rate equal  
13 to the rate charged if the program were a program of ap-  
14 prenticeship.

15 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

18 “(A) entitled to educational assistance; and

19 “(B) seeking to use such assistance for a  
20 program of apprenticeship.

21 “(2) The term ‘educational assistance’ means  
22 educational assistance provided under chapter 30,  
23 32, 33, 34, or 35 of this title or chapter 1606 of  
24 title 10.

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

3           “(A) designed to prepare individuals to  
4 enter and succeed in a registered apprenticeship  
5 program; and

6           “(B) that has a documented partnership  
7 with at least one sponsor.

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

16           “(5) The term ‘sponsor’, with respect to a pre-  
17 apprenticeship program, means an entity that for-  
18 mally supports the pre-apprenticeship program, in-  
19 cluding—

20           “(A) a registered apprenticeship program;

21           “(B) a department or agency of a State or  
22 local government;

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

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

4           (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
5 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting  
6 after the item relating to section 3687 the following new  
7 item:

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

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

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