

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 980, with An Amendment**

**(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)**

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# **H. R. 980**

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the provision of on-campus educational and vocational counseling by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

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## **IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**FEBRUARY 5, 2025**

Mr. VAN ORDEN 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 make certain improvements to the provision of on-campus educational and vocational counseling by the Department 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 Readiness  
5       and Employment Improvement Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. ELIMINATION OF REQUIREMENT THAT ON-CAMPUS**  
2 **EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL COUN-**  
3 **SELING IS PROVIDED BY CERTAIN DEPART-**  
4 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EMPLOYEES.**

5 Section 3697B(a) of title 38, United States Code, is  
6 amended by striking the second sentence.

7 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
8 **TO APPROVE NON-DEGREE FLIGHT TRAINING**  
9 **COURSES AS PART OF VOCATIONAL REHA-**  
10 **BILITATION PROGRAMS FOR CERTAIN VET-**  
11 **ERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABIL-**  
12 **ITIES.**

13 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3104(b) of title 38,  
14 United States Code, is amended—

15 (1) by inserting “(1)” before “A rehabilitation  
16 program”;

17 (2) by striking “To the maximum extent prac-  
18 ticable” and inserting “Except as provided under  
19 paragraph (2), to the maximum extent practicable”;  
20 and

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

23 “(2) Notwithstanding section 3680A(b) of this title,  
24 the Secretary may approve a rehabilitation program for  
25 a veteran under this chapter that includes the pursuit of  
26 a course of flight training other than one given by an edu-

1 cational institution of higher learning for credit toward a  
2 standard college degree the veteran is seeking.”.

3 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by sub-  
4 section (a) shall apply with respect to a rehabilitation pro-  
5 gram approved on or after August 1, 2026.

6 **SEC. 4. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TRAINING**

7 **AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS FOR VET-  
8 ERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABIL-  
9 ITIES: OUTREACH REQUIREMENT; EXTEN-  
10 SIONS.**

11 (a) VRE CONTACT INFORMATION.—Section 3104 of  
12 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the  
13 end the following new subsection:

14 “(f) The Secretary shall establish a dedicated tele-  
15 phone number within the Education Call Center of the De-  
16 partment for calls about services provided under this chap-  
17 ter. Each regional office of the Department shall include,  
18 on the website of the regional office, a name, telephone  
19 number, and email address, through which veterans may  
20 receive information about services provided under this  
21 chapter.”.

22 (b) REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS OF PROGRAMS:  
23 TIMELY CONSIDERATION; REPORT.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3105 of title 38,  
25 United States Code, is amended, in subsection (c)—

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

3 (B) by inserting “(1)” before “The Sec-  
4 retary”; and

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

7       “(2) The Secretary shall approve or deny a request  
8 for an extension under paragraph (1) not later than 30  
9 days after the date on which the veteran submits such re-  
10 quest.”.

11 (2) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the  
12 date of the enactment of this Act, and annually  
13 thereafter for five years, the Secretary of Veterans  
14 Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans'  
15 Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives  
16 an annual report on requests for extensions under  
17 such subsection (c). Each such report shall include,  
18 for the year preceding the date of the report—

19 (A) the number of veterans who requested  
20 such an extension;

21 (B) the number of such requests that were  
22 approved; and

23 (C) the number of such requests that were  
24 denied.

1 **SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF**

2 **PENSION.**

3 Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code,

4 is amended by striking “January 31, 2033” and inserting

5 “July 31, 2033”.