

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# **S. 3503**

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## **AN ACT**

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to treat certain programs of education converted to distance learning by reason of emergencies and health-related situations in the same manner as programs of education pursued at educational institutions, 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. CONTINUATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VET-**  
 4                   **ERANS AFFAIRS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**  
 5                   **BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS OF EDU-**  
 6                   **CATION CONVERTED TO DISTANCE LEARN-**  
 7                   **ING BY REASON OF EMERGENCIES AND**  
 8                   **HEALTH-RELATED SITUATIONS.**

9       (a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a program of edu-  
 10      cation approved by a State approving agency, or the Sec-  
 11      retary of Veterans Affairs when acting in the role of a  
 12      State approving agency, that is converted from being of-  
 13      fered on-site at an educational institution to being offered  
 14      by distance learning by reason of an emergency or health-  
 15      related situation, as determined by the Secretary, the Sec-  
 16      retary may continue to provide educational assistance  
 17      under the laws administered by the Secretary without re-  
 18      gard to such conversion, including with respect to paying  
 19      any—

20           (1) monthly housing stipends under chapter 33  
 21      of title 38, United States Code; or

22           (2) payments or subsistence allowances under  
 23      chapters 30, 31, 32, and 35 of such title and chap-  
 24      ters 1606 and 1607 of title 10, United States Code.

1 (b) APPLICABILITY PERIOD.—Subsection (a) shall  
 2 apply during the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and  
 3 ending on December 21, 2020.

4 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term  
 6 “educational institution” has the meaning given that  
 7 term in section 3452 of title 38, United States Code,  
 8 and includes an institution of higher learning (as de-  
 9 fined in such section).

10 (2) PROGRAM OF EDUCATION.—The term “pro-  
 11 gram of education” has the meaning given that term  
 12 in section 3002 of title 38, United States Code.

13 (3) STATE APPROVING AGENCY.—The term  
 14 “State approving agency” has the meaning given  
 15 that term in section 3671 of title 38, United States  
 16 Code.

17 **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—This Act is designated as an  
 19 emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the  
 20 Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

21 (b) DESIGNATION IN SENATE.—In the Senate, this  
 22 Act is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant  
 23 to section 4112(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress),

1 the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year  
2 2018.

Passed the Senate March 16, 2020.

Attest:

*Secretary.*



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