

S 3678

A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for payment of work-study allowances during a public health emergency relating to COVID-19 and for allowances to veterans enrolled in educational institutions closed for emergency situations, and for other purposes.

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: May 11, 2020

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (May 11, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3678>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]

Party: Republican • **State:** KS • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (13 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|---------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN] | R · TN | | May 11, 2020 |
| Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT] | D · CT | | May 11, 2020 |
| Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ] | D · NJ | | May 11, 2020 |
| Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH] | D · OH | | May 11, 2020 |
| Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA] | R · LA | | May 11, 2020 |
| Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI] | D · HI | | May 11, 2020 |
| Sen. Inhofe, James M. [R-OK] | R · OK | | May 11, 2020 |
| Sen. Loeffler, Kelly [R-GA] | R · GA | | May 11, 2020 |
| Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA] | D · WA | | May 11, 2020 |
| Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD] | R · SD | | May 11, 2020 |
| Sen. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ] | D · AZ | | May 11, 2020 |
| Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT] | D · MT | | May 11, 2020 |
| Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC] | R · NC | | May 11, 2020 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|-----------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Veterans' Affairs Committee | Senate | Referred To | May 11, 2020 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|--------------|---|
| 116 HR 6322 | Related bill | Apr 28, 2020: Became Public Law No: 116-140. |

Summary (as of May 11, 2020)

This bill addresses education programs and assistance for veterans during emergency situations.

Specifically, the bill authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to continue paying work-study allowances during the COVID-19 public health emergency period.

The VA is also authorized to continue paying educational assistance and subsistence allowances between March 1-December 21, 2020, for programs of education that are suspended due to an emergency situation or school closure.

An educational assistance payment shall not be charged against an individual's entitlement to educational assistance if an individual was unable to complete a course or program due to the temporary closure of an educational institution or the temporary termination of a program by reason of an emergency situation occurring between March 1-December 21, 2020. This includes assistance related to training and rehabilitation programs for veterans with service-connected disabilities.

The bill extends the time limitation for using educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill and the Post-9/11 GI Bill when institutions are closed due to an executive order or emergency situation occurring between March 1-December 21, 2020. It also extends the time limitation for participation in a vocational rehabilitation program when such participation is prevented due to an executive order or emergency situation occurring between March 1-December 21, 2020.

The bill authorizes the VA to pay a subsistence allowance for two additional months to a veteran following a program of employment services from March 1-December 21, 2020, for full-time training for the type of program the veteran was pursuing.

Actions Timeline

- **May 11, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 11, 2020:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.