

## HR 5603

### Protections for Student Veterans Act

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Armed Forces and National Security

**Introduced:** Oct 15, 2021

**Current Status:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

**Latest Action:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (Nov 17, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5603>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Underwood, Lauren [D-IL-14]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** IL • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors

*No cosponsors are listed for this bill.*

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Discharged from	Nov 4, 2021
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Nov 17, 2021

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 4874	Related bill	Sep 21, 2021: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

## Protections for Student Veterans Act

This bill authorizes service members who are utilizing Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) educational assistance benefits to withdraw or take a leave of absence after they receive orders for active service, inactive-duty training, or state active duty and addresses matters related to VA educational assistance for flight training.

Institutions of higher education are prohibited from taking adverse actions (e.g., assigning a failing grade) against such service members for withdrawing or taking a leave of absence.

The bill requires institutions of higher education to refund all tuition and fees (including for housing) for the academic term for which the service member withdraws.

In situations where the service member takes a leave of absence, the institution of higher education must assign a grade of incomplete for the applicable term and permit the member to complete the academic term after the period of service.

The bill adjusts requirements related to utilizing VA educational assistance for flight training purposes, including by removing the requirement that an individual must possess a valid private pilot certificate and meet certain medical requirements to utilize such assistance.

Individuals enrolled in a program of education at an institution of higher learning in which flight training is required may elect to receive accelerated payments of tuition and fees if they also elect to receive educational counseling. The bill also specifies the calculation and determination of such fees, as well as the calculation of available entitlement in cases of accelerated payments.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Nov 17, 2021:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
- **Nov 16, 2021:** Mr. Takano moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Nov 16, 2021:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H6283-6286)
- **Nov 16, 2021:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 5603.
- **Nov 16, 2021:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H6283-6284)
- **Nov 16, 2021:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H6283-6284)
- **Nov 16, 2021:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Nov 4, 2021:** Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity Discharged.
- **Nov 4, 2021:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Nov 4, 2021:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Oct 25, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.
- **Oct 15, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Oct 15, 2021:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.