

112TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4057

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop a comprehensive policy to improve outreach and transparency to veterans and members of the Armed Forces through the provision of information on institutions of higher learning, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 16, 2012

Mr. BILIRAKIS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop a comprehensive policy to improve outreach and transparency to veterans and members of the Armed Forces through the provision of information on institutions of higher learning, 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 “Improving Trans-
5 parency of Education Opportunities for Veterans Act of
6 2012”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON PROVIDING EDU-**
2 **CATION INFORMATION TO VETERANS.**

3 (a) COMPREHENSIVE POLICY REQUIRED.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 36 of title 38,
5 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
6 end the following new section:

7 **“§ 3698. Comprehensive policy on providing edu-**
8 **cation information to veterans**

9 “(a) COMPREHENSIVE POLICY REQUIRED.—The Sec-
10 retary shall develop a comprehensive policy to improve out-
11 reach and transparency to veterans and members of the
12 Armed Forces through the provision of information on in-
13 stitutions of higher learning.

14 “(b) SCOPE.—In developing the policy required by
15 subsection (a), the Secretary shall include each of the fol-
16 lowing elements:

17 “(1) The most effective way to inform individ-
18 uals of the educational and vocational counseling
19 provided under section 3697A of this title.

20 “(2) A centralized way to track and publish
21 feedback from students and State approving agen-
22 cies regarding the quality of instruction and accredi-
23 tation, recruiting practices, and post-graduation em-
24 ployment placement of institutions of higher learn-
25 ing.

1 “(3) The merit of and the manner in which a
2 State approving agency shares with an accrediting
3 agency recognized by the Department of Education
4 information regarding the State approving agency’s
5 evaluation of an institution of higher learning.

6 “(4) The manner in which information regard-
7 ing institutions of higher learning is provided to in-
8 dividuals participating in the Transition Assistance
9 Program under section 1144 of title 10.

10 “(5) The most effective way to provide veterans
11 and members of the Armed Forces with information
12 regarding postsecondary education and training op-
13 portunities available to the veteran or member.

14 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 “(1) The term ‘institution of higher learning’
16 has the meaning given that term in section 3452(f)
17 of this title.

18 “(2) The term ‘postsecondary education and
19 training opportunities’ means any postsecondary
20 program of education, including apprenticeships and
21 on-job training, for which the Secretary of Veterans
22 Affairs provides assistance to a veteran or member
23 of the Armed Forces.”.

24 “(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
25 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended

1 by adding after the item relating to section 3697A
2 the following new item:

“3698. Comprehensive policy on providing education information to veterans.”.

3 (b) SURVEY.—In developing the policy required by
4 section 3698(a) of title 38, United States Code, as added
5 by subsection (a), the Secretary shall conduct a market
6 survey to determine the availability of the following:

7 (1) A commercially available off-the-shelf online
8 tool that allows a veteran or member of the Armed
9 Forces to assess whether the veteran or member is
10 academically ready to engage in postsecondary edu-
11 cation and training opportunities and whether the
12 veteran or member would need any remedial prepa-
13 ration before beginning such opportunities.

14 (2) A commercially available off-the-shelf online
15 tool that provides a veteran or member of the Armed
16 Forces with a list of providers of postsecondary edu-
17 cation and training opportunities based on criteria
18 selected by the veteran or member.

19 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date
20 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
21 to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of
22 Representatives and the Senate a report that includes—

23 (1) a description of the policy developed by the
24 Secretary under section 3698(a) of title 38, United
25 States Code, as added by subsection (a);

1 (2) a plan of the Secretary to implement such
2 policy; and

3 (3) the results of the survey conducted under
4 subsection (b), including whether the Secretary
5 plans to implement the tools described in such sub-
6 section.

7 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) The term “commercially available off-the-
9 shelf” has the meaning given that term in section
10 104 of title 41, United States Code.

11 (2) The term “postsecondary education and
12 training opportunities” means any postsecondary
13 program of education, including apprenticeships and
14 on-job training, for which the Secretary of Veterans
15 Affairs provides assistance to a veteran or member
16 of the Armed Forces.

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