

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3557

To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the number of health care professionals employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs by improving the Department of Veterans Affairs Education Debt Reduction Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2017

Mr. WALDEN (for himself, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. NEWHOUSE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the number of health care professionals employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs by improving the Department of Veterans Affairs Education Debt Reduction Program.

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. IMPROVEMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
4 **ERANS AFFAIRS EDUCATION DEBT REDUC-**
5 **TION PROGRAM.**

6 (a) **ADDITIONAL LOANS COVERED.**—Section
7 7682(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended

1 by striking “a course of education or training which led
2 to a degree that qualified the individual for the position
3 referred to in paragraph (1)” and inserting “the under-
4 graduate or graduate education of the individual (or
5 both)”.

6 (b) INCREASE OF AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—Sub-
7 section (d) of section 7683 of such title is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (1)—

9 (A) by striking “\$120,000” and inserting
10 “\$240,000”; and

11 (B) by striking “\$24,000” and inserting
12 “\$60,000”; and

13 (2) in paragraph (2)(B), by adding at the end
14 the following new sentence: “The Secretary shall se-
15 lect the locations covered by the preceding sentence
16 pursuant to a process established by the Secretary
17 that is similar to the process used to determine
18 health professional shortage areas under section 332
19 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e).”.

20 (c) ADDRESSING TAX LIABILITY.—Such section is
21 further amended by adding at the end the following new
22 subsection:

23 “(e) TAX LIABILITY.—For the purpose of providing
24 reimbursements for tax liability resulting from payments

1 under this subchapter on behalf of an individual, the Sec-
2 retary—

3 “(1) shall, in addition to such payments, make
4 payments to the individual in an amount equal to 39
5 percent of the total amount of loan repayments
6 made for the taxable year involved; and

7 “(2) may make such additional payments as the
8 Secretary determines to be appropriate with respect
9 to such purpose.”.

10 (d) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this
11 Act shall apply with respect to individuals who first par-
12 ticipate in the Department of Veterans Affairs Education
13 Debt Reduction Program under subchapter VII of chapter
14 76 of title 38, United States Code, beginning on or after
15 the date of the enactment of this Act.

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