

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5781

To amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to ensure that certain educational benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs are treated as income by landlords evaluating the ability of a servicemember, veteran, or a spouse or child of a servicemember or veteran, to pay rent.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 11, 2018

Mr. CROWLEY (for himself, Mr. BANKS of Indiana, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. ESPAILLAT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to ensure that certain educational benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs are treated as income by landlords evaluating the ability of a servicemember, veteran, or a spouse or child of a servicemember or veteran, to pay rent.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Students Living Irre-
3 spective of Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2018”
4 or the “Students LIVE Act of 2018”.

5 **SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
6 **ERANS AFFAIRS BENEFITS IN DETERMINING**
7 **INCOME FOR PURPOSES OF ENTERING INTO**
8 **RESIDENTIAL LEASES.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Servicemembers
10 Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. 3951 et seq.) is amended by
11 adding at the end the following new section:

12 **“SEC. 309. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
13 **ERANS AFFAIRS BENEFITS IN DETERMINING**
14 **INCOME FOR PURPOSES OF ENTERING INTO**
15 **RESIDENTIAL LEASES.**

16 “(a) PROTECTION.—In determining whether a cov-
17 ered individual has an income sufficient to enter into a
18 lease of premises for a residential purpose, the landlord
19 (or other person with paramount title) of the premises
20 shall treat any benefits received by the covered individual
21 under any of chapters 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, or 36 of
22 title 38, United States Code, or chapters 1606 or 1607
23 of title 10, United States Code, as income.

24 “(b) MISDEMEANOR.—A person who knowingly takes
25 an action contrary to this section, or attempts to do so,

1 shall be fined as provided in title 18, United States Code,
2 or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both.

3 “(c) COVERED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this sec-
4 tion, the term ‘covered individual’ means a servicemember,
5 veteran, or a spouse or child of a servicemember or vet-
6 eran.”.

7 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
8 at the beginning of such Act is amended by inserting after
9 the item relating to section 308 the following new item:

“Sec. 309. Treatment of certain Department of Veterans Affairs benefits in de-
termining income for purposes of entering into residential
leases.”.

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