114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5814

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve service-connected disability determinations for purposes of loan discharge.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 14, 2016

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. COFFMAN, and Ms. SINEMA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve service-connected disability determinations for purposes of loan discharge.

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 "Match Veterans to Stu-

5   dent Loan Protections Act".

6   **SEC. 2. IMPROVED DISABILITY DETERMINATIONS.**

7   (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 437(a) (20 U.S.C.

8   1087(a)) is amended—

9   (1) in paragraph (2)—

1   (A) by striking "A borrower" and inserting

2   the following:

3   "(A) IN GENERAL.—A borrower"; and

4   (B) by adding at the end the following

5   "(B) MATCHING PROGRAM.—

6   "(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of

7   Education and the Secretary of Veterans

8   Affairs shall carry out a computer match-

9   ing program under which the Secretary of

10   Education identifies, on at least a quar-

11   terly basis, the borrowers who have been

12   assigned a disability rating of 100 percent

13   (or a combination of ratings equaling 100

14   percent or more) by the Secretary of Vet-

15   erans Affairs for a service-connected dis-

16   ability (as defined in section 101 of title

17   38, United States Code).

18   "(ii) BORROWER NOTIFICATION.—

19   With respect to each borrower who is iden-

20   tified by the Secretary of Education under

21   clause (i), the Secretary shall, as soon as

22   practicable after such identification—

23   "(I) notify the borrower of the

24   borrower's eligibility for loan dis-

25   charge under this subsection; and

1 "(II) provide the borrower with

2 simple instructions on how to apply

3 for such loan discharge, including an

4 explanation that the borrower shall

5 not be required to provide any docu-

6 mentation of the borrower's disability

7 rating to receive such discharge."; and

8 (2) by adding at the end the following:

9 "(3) DATA COLLECTION AND REPORT TO CON-

10 GRESS.—The Secretary shall annually collect and

11 submit to the Committees on Education and the

12 Workforce and Veterans' Affairs of the House of

13 Representatives and the Committees on Health,

14 Education, Labor, and Pensions and Veterans' Af-

15 fairs of the Senate, data about borrowers applying

16 for and receiving loan discharges under this sub-

17 section, which shall include the following,

18 disaggregated by borrowers applying for or receiving

19 such discharges under subparagraph (A) or (B) of

20 paragraph (2):

21 "(A) The number of applications received

22 under this subsection.

23 "(B) The number of such applications that

24 were approved.

1   "(C) The number of loan discharges that
2   were completed under this subsection.

3   "(D) Any other information the Secretary
4   determines is necessary.

5   "(4) NOTIFICATION TO BORROWERS.—The Sec-
6   retary shall notify each borrower whose liability on
7   a loan has been discharged under this subsection
8   that such loan has been discharged.".

9   (b) REPORTS.—

10   (1) PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the
11 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
12 Education shall submit to the appropriate commit-
13 tees of Congress a report that includes a plan to
14 carry out the activities described under section
15 437(a)(2)(B) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
16 (20 U.S.C. 1087(a)(2)), as added by this section.

17   (2) FOLLOW-UP REPORT.—If the Secretary of
18 Education has not carried out the activities de-
19 scribed under section 437(a)(2)(B) of the Higher
20 Education Act of 1965, as added by this section, by
21 the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment
22 of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall submit
23 to the appropriate committees of Congress, by such

1   date, a report that includes an explanation of why

2   those activities have not been implemented.

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