

“(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘covered educational institution’ means an educational institution that has enrolled 20 or more individuals using educational assistance under title 38, United States Code.

“(2) The term ‘school certifying official’ means an employee of an educational institution with primary responsibility for certifying veteran enrollment at the educational institution.

“(3) The term ‘State approving agency’ means a department or agency of a State designated under section 3671 of title 38, United States Code.

“(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on August 1, 2018.”

MODIFICATIONS OF REPORTING FEE MULTIPLIERS
DURING CERTAIN PERIODS

Pub. L. 115-62, title IV, §411(b), Sept. 29, 2017, 131 Stat. 1165, provided that: “During the period beginning on August 1, 2018, and ending on July 31, 2020, section 3684(c)(2) of title 38, United States Code, as amended by section 304 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-48) shall be applied by substituting ‘\$15’ for ‘\$16’.”

Pub. L. 114-315, title IV, §412(a), (b), Dec. 16, 2016, 130 Stat. 1562, as amended by Pub. L. 115-62, title IV, §411(a), Sept. 29, 2017, 131 Stat. 1165, provided that:

“(a) THROUGH JULY 31, 2018.—During the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 16, 2016] and ending on July 31, 2018, the second sentence of section 3684(c) of title 38, United States Code, shall be applied—

“(1) by substituting ‘\$6’ for ‘\$12’; and

“(2) by substituting ‘\$12’ for ‘\$15’.”

[(b) Repealed. Pub. L. 115-62, title IV, §411(a)(1)(B), Sept. 29, 2017, 131 Stat. 1165.]

Pub. L. 113-175, title IV, §406, Sept. 26, 2014, 128 Stat. 1905, as amended by Pub. L. 114-58, title IV, §410, Sept. 30, 2015, 129 Stat. 535; Pub. L. 114-228, title IV, §413, Sept. 29, 2016, 130 Stat. 941; Pub. L. 114-315, title IV, §412(c), Dec. 16, 2016, 130 Stat. 1562, provided that: “During the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act [Sept. 26, 2014] and ending on the day before the date of the enactment of the Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2016 [Dec. 16, 2016], the second sentence of section 3684(c) shall be applied—

“(1) by substituting ‘\$9’ for ‘\$12’; and

“(2) by substituting ‘\$13’ for ‘\$15’.”

§ 3684A. Procedures relating to computer matching program

(a)(1) Notwithstanding section 552a(p) of title 5 and subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Secretary may suspend, terminate, reduce, or make a final denial of any financial assistance or payment under an educational assistance program provided for in chapter 30 or 32 of this title or in chapter 106 of title 10 in the case of any individual, or take other adverse action against such individual, based on information produced by a matching program with the Department of Defense.

(2) The Secretary may not take any action referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection until—

(A) the individual concerned has been provided a written notice containing a statement of the findings of the Secretary based on the matching program, a description of the proposed action, and notice of the individual’s right to contest such findings within 10 days after the date of the notice; and

(B) the 10-day period referred to in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph has expired.

(3) In computing the 10-day period referred to in paragraph (2) of this subsection, Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays shall be excluded.

(b) For the purposes of subsection (q) of section 552a of title 5, compliance with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall be considered compliance with the provisions of subsection (p) of such section 552a.

(c) For purposes of this section, the term “matching program” has the same meaning provided in section 552a(a)(8) of title 5.

(Added Pub. L. 101-366, title II, §206(a), Aug. 15, 1990, 104 Stat. 441, §1784A; renumbered §3684A, Pub. L. 102-83, §5(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 406.)

AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-83 renumbered section 1784A of this title as this section.

§ 3685. Overpayments to eligible persons or veterans

(a) Whenever the Secretary finds that an overpayment has been made to a veteran or eligible person, the amount of such overpayment shall constitute a liability of such veteran or eligible person to the United States.

(b) Whenever the Secretary finds that an overpayment has been made to a veteran or eligible person as the result of (1) the willful or negligent failure of an educational institution to report, as required under this chapter or chapter 34 or 35 of this title, to the Department of Veterans Affairs excessive absences from a course, or discontinuance or interruption of a course by the veteran or eligible person, or (2) the willful or negligent false certification by an educational institution, the amount of such overpayment shall constitute a liability of the educational institution to the United States.

(c) Any overpayment referred to in subsection (a) or (b) of this section may be recovered, except as otherwise provided in the last sentence of section 3684(c) of this title, in the same manner as any other debt due the United States.

(d) Any overpayment referred to in subsection (a) or (b) of this section may be waived as to a veteran or eligible person as provided in section 5302 of this title. Waiver of any such overpayment as to a veteran or eligible person shall in no way release any educational institution from liability under subsection (b) of this section.

(e)(1) Any amount collected from a veteran or eligible person pursuant to this section shall be reimbursed to the educational institution which is liable pursuant to subsection (b) of this section to the extent that collection was made from the educational institution.

(2) Nothing in this section or any other provision of this title shall be construed as (A) precluding the imposition of any civil or criminal liability under this title or any other law, or (B) requiring any institution of higher learning to maintain daily attendance records for any course leading to a standard college degree.

(Added Pub. L. 89-358, §3(b), Mar. 3, 1966, 80 Stat. 22, §1785; amended Pub. L. 92-540, title IV, §403(11), Oct. 24, 1972, 86 Stat. 1090; Pub. L. 95-202, title III, §304(a)(2), Nov. 23, 1977, 91 Stat. 1442; Pub. L. 96-466, title III, §344, Oct. 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 2199; Pub. L. 101-237, title IV, §423(b)(1), Dec. 18, 1989, 103 Stat. 2092; Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, §402(d)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 239; renumbered §3685 and amended Pub. L. 102-83, §5(a), (c)(1), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 406.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those comprising this section were contained in Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1191, 1202, which was classified to former sections 1666 and 1766 of this title, prior to repeal by sections 4(a) and 3(a)(3) of Pub. L. 89-358, respectively.

AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-83, §5(a), renumbered section 1785 of this title as this section.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 102-83, §5(c)(1), substituted "3684(c)" for "1784(c)".

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 102-40 substituted "5302" for "3102".

1989—Subsecs. (a), (b). Pub. L. 101-237 substituted "Secretary" and "Department of Veterans Affairs" for "Administrator" and "Veterans' Administration", respectively, wherever appearing.

1980—Pub. L. 96-466 designated existing provisions as subsecs. (b), (c), and (e), with minor changes in language, and added subsecs. (a) and (d).

1977—Pub. L. 95-202 inserted "except as otherwise provided in section 1784(b) of this title," after "recovered" in first sentence, and inserted last sentence providing that nothing in this section or any other provision of this title shall be construed as requiring any institution of higher learning to maintain daily attendance for any course leading to a standard college degree.

1972—Pub. L. 92-540 inserted "this chapter or" before "chapter 34 or 35".

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-466 effective Oct. 1, 1980, except as otherwise specifically provided, see section 802(c) of Pub. L. 96-466, set out as a note under section 3452 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1977 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 95-202 effective Nov. 23, 1977, see section 501 of Pub. L. 95-202, set out as a note under section 101 of this title.

§ 3686. Correspondence courses

(a)(1) Each eligible veteran (as defined in section 3452(a)(1) and (2) of this title) and each eligible spouse or surviving spouse (as defined in section 3501(a)(1)(B), (C), (D), or (E) of this title) who enters into an enrollment agreement to pursue a program of education exclusively by correspondence shall be paid an educational assistance allowance computed at the rate of 55 percent of the established charge which the institution requires nonveterans to pay for the course or courses pursued by the eligible veteran or spouse or surviving spouse. The term "established charge" as used herein means the charge for the course or courses determined on the basis of the lowest extended time payment plan offered by the institution and approved by the appropriate State approving agency or the actual cost to the veteran or spouse or surviving spouse, whichever is the lesser. Such allowance shall be paid quarterly on a pro rata basis for the lessons completed by the veteran or spouse or surviving spouse and serviced by the institution.

(2) The period of entitlement of any veteran or spouse or surviving spouse who is pursuing any program of education exclusively by correspondence shall be charged with one month for each \$376 which is paid to the veteran or spouse or surviving spouse as an educational assistance allowance for such course.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law unless enacted in express limitation of this paragraph, funds in the Department of Veterans Affairs readjustment benefits account shall be available for payments under paragraph (1) of this subsection for pursuit of a program of education exclusively by correspondence in which the veteran or spouse or surviving spouse enrolls after September 30, 1981.

(b) The enrollment agreement shall fully disclose the obligation of both the institution and the veteran or spouse or surviving spouse and shall prominently display the provisions for affirmation, termination, refunds, and the conditions under which payment of the allowance is made by the Secretary to the veteran or spouse or surviving spouse. A copy of the enrollment agreement shall be furnished to each such veteran or spouse or surviving spouse at the time such veteran or spouse or surviving spouse signs such agreement. No such agreement shall be effective unless such veteran or spouse or surviving spouse shall, after the expiration of five days after the enrollment agreement is signed, have signed and submitted to the Secretary a written statement, with a signed copy to the institution, specifically affirming the enrollment agreement. In the event the veteran or spouse or surviving spouse at any time notifies the institution of such veteran's or spouse's intention not to affirm the agreement in accordance with the preceding sentence, the institution, without imposing any penalty or charging any fee shall promptly make a full refund of all amounts paid.

(c) In the event a veteran or spouse or surviving spouse elects to terminate such veteran's or spouse's enrollment under an affirmed enrollment agreement, the institution may charge the veteran or spouse or surviving spouse a registration or similar fee not in excess of 10 percent of the tuition for the course, or \$50, whichever is less. Where the veteran or spouse or surviving spouse elects to terminate the agreement after completion of one or more but less than 25 percent of the total number of lessons comprising the course, the institution may retain such registration or similar fee plus 25 percent of the tuition for the course. Where the veteran or spouse or surviving spouse elects to terminate the agreement after completion of 25 percent but less than 50 percent of the lessons comprising the course, the institution may retain the full registration or similar fee plus 50 percent of the course tuition. If 50 percent or more of the lessons are completed, no refund of tuition is required.

(Added Pub. L. 92-540, title III, §316(1), Oct. 24, 1972, 86 Stat. 1084, §1786; amended Pub. L. 93-508, title I, §104(1), Dec. 3, 1974, 88 Stat. 1580; Pub. L. 93-602, title II, §205(a), Jan. 2, 1975, 88 Stat. 1958; Pub. L. 94-502, title V, §§501(1), 513(a)(18), Oct. 15, 1976, 90 Stat. 2398, 2403; Pub. L. 95-202, title I, §104(1), Nov. 23, 1977, 91 Stat. 1435; Pub. L. 96-466, title II, §§203(2), 213(2), title VI, §604, Oct. 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 2189, 2191, 2209; Pub. L. 97-35, title XX, §2004(a), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 782; Pub. L. 97-174, §5(a), May 4, 1982, 96 Stat. 75; Pub. L. 97-295, §4(56), Oct. 12, 1982, 96 Stat. 1309; Pub. L. 98-543, title II, §204(1), Oct. 24, 1984, 98 Stat. 2742; Pub. L. 101-237, title IV, §423(b)(1), Dec. 18, 1989,