

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an extension of the period of eligibility under the Department of Veterans Affairs training and rehabilitation program for veterans with service-connected disabilities by reason of school closures due to emergency and other situations, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. BOOKER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an extension of the period of eligibility under the Department of Veterans Affairs training and rehabilitation program for veterans with service-connected disabilities by reason of school closures due to emergency and other situations, 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 “Veteran Readiness and  
5 Employment National Emergency Extended Deadline Act  
6 of 2021” or the “VR&E NEED Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY BY REASON**  
2 **OF SCHOOL CLOSURES DUE TO EMERGENCY**  
3 **AND OTHER SITUATIONS UNDER DEPART-**  
4 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TRAINING AND**  
5 **REHABILITATION PROGRAM FOR VETERANS**  
6 **WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.**

7 Section 3103 of title 38, United States Code, is  
8 amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “or (g)” and  
10 inserting “(g), or (h)”; and

11 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
12 section:

13 “(h)(1) In the case of a veteran who is eligible for  
14 a vocational rehabilitation program under this chapter and  
15 who is prevented from participating in the vocational reha-  
16 bilitation program within the period of eligibility pre-  
17 scribed in subsection (a) because of a covered reason, as  
18 determined by the Secretary, such period of eligibility—

19 “(A) shall not run during the period the vet-  
20 eran is so prevented from participating in such pro-  
21 gram; and

22 “(B) shall again begin running on a date deter-  
23 mined by the Secretary that is—

24 “(i) not earlier than the first day after the  
25 veteran is able to resume participation in a vo-

1           cational rehabilitation program under this chap-  
2           ter; and

3                   “(ii) not later than 90 days after that day.

4           “(2) In this subsection, a covered reason is—

5                   “(A) the temporary or permanent closure of an  
6           educational institution by reason of an emergency  
7           situation; or

8                   “(B) another reason that prevents the veteran  
9           from participating in the vocational rehabilitation  
10          program, as determined by the Secretary.”.