

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 6375
OFFERED BY MR. RUIZ OF CALIFORNIA

Page 10, insert after line 9 the following:

1 SEC. 7. AMOUNT OF BENEFIT INCREASED.

2 Section 1201(a) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Con-
3 trol and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281(a))
4 is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by
5 striking “\$250,000” and inserting “\$550,000”.

**6 SEC. 8. DATE OF DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT OF BEN-
7 EFIT.**

8 (a) **DISABILITY BENEFIT.**—Section 1201(b) of title
9 I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of
10 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281(b)) is amended by striking “with
11 respect to the date on which the catastrophic injury oc-
12 curred” and inserting “with respect to the date that a de-
13 termination is made to make such payment”.

14 (b) **DEATH BENEFIT.**—Section 1201(i) of title I of
15 the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968
16 (34 U.S.C. 10281(i)) is amended by striking “as of the
17 date of death of such officer” and inserting “as of the
18 date that a determination is made to make such payment
19 subsequent to an application”.

1 **SEC. 9. AMOUNT OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.**

2 Section 1212(a)(2) of title I of the Omnibus Crime
3 Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C.
4 10302(a)(2)) is amended by striking “shall be computed
5 on the basis set forth in section 3532 of title 38, United
6 States Code” and inserting “shall be computed on the
7 basis set forth in section 1219”.

8 **SEC. 10. COMPUTATION OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE AL-**
9 **LOWANCE.**

10 Subpart 2 of part L of title I of the Omnibus Crime
11 Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10301
12 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

13 **“SEC. 1219. COMPUTATION OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**
14 **ALLOWANCE.**

15 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

16 “(1) MONTHLY RATES.—The financial assist-
17 ance to be paid on behalf of an eligible person who
18 is pursuing a program of education consisting of in-
19 stitutional courses shall be computed at the rate
20 of—

21 “(A) \$2,200 per month for full-time pur-
22 suit;

23 “(B) \$1,700 per month for three-quarter-
24 time pursuit; or

25 “(C) \$1,250 per month for half-time pur-
26 suit.

1 “(2) LESS THAN HALF-TIME BASIS.—The fi-
2 nancial assistance to be paid on behalf of an eligible
3 person pursuing a program of education on less than
4 a half-time basis shall be computed at the rate of
5 the lesser of—

6 “(A) the established charges for tuition
7 and fees that the eligible educational institution
8 involved requires to be paid by similarly
9 circumstanced noneligible persons enrolled in
10 the same program; or

11 “(B) \$2,200 per month for a full-time
12 course.

13 “(b) TRAINING.—The financial assistance to be paid
14 on behalf of an eligible person who is pursuing a full-time
15 program of education which consists of institutional
16 courses and alternate phases of training in a business or
17 industrial establishment under which the training in the
18 business or industrial establishment is strictly supple-
19 mental to the institutional portion, shall be computed at
20 the rate of \$2,200 per month.

21 “(c) FARM COOPERATIVE.—

22 “(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
23 ‘enrolled in a farm cooperative program’, relating to
24 an eligible person, means that the eligible person—

1 “(A) is enrolled in an eligible educational
2 institution for a farm cooperative program con-
3 sisting of institutional agricultural courses
4 prescheduled to fall within 44 weeks of any pe-
5 riod of 12 consecutive months;

6 “(B) pursues such program on—

7 “(i) a full-time basis (consisting of a
8 minimum of 10 clock hours per week or
9 440 clock hours per year prescheduled to
10 provide not less than 80 clock hours in any
11 3-month period);

12 “(ii) a three-quarter-time basis (con-
13 sisting of a minimum of 7 clock hours per
14 week); or

15 “(iii) a half-time basis (consisting of a
16 minimum of 5 clock hours per week); and

17 “(C) is concurrently engaged in agricul-
18 tural employment which is relevant to such in-
19 stitutional agricultural courses, as determined
20 under standards prescribed by the Attorney
21 General.

22 “(2) COMPUTATION.—The financial assistance
23 to be paid on behalf of an eligible person who is en-
24 rolled in a farm cooperative program shall be com-
25 puted at the rate of—

1 “(A) \$690 per month for full-time pursuit;

2 “(B) \$517 per month for three-quarter-
3 time pursuit; or

4 “(C) \$345 per month for half-time pursuit.

5 “(3) CALCULATION OF HOURS.—In calculating
6 the number of clock hours for purposes of paragraph
7 (1), the Attorney General shall include the time in-
8 volved in field trips and individual and group in-
9 struction sponsored and conducted by the eligible
10 educational institution through a duly authorized in-
11 structor of such institution in which the eligible per-
12 son is enrolled.

13 “(d) PROGRAMS IN REPUBLIC OF PHILIPPINES.—
14 The financial assistance to be paid on behalf of an eligible
15 person who is enrolled in a program of education at an
16 eligible educational institution located in the Republic of
17 the Philippines, shall be computed at the rate of \$0.50
18 for each \$1.00 otherwise payable under this subpart.

19 “(e) LICENSING OR CERTIFICATION.—

20 “(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
21 ‘licensing or certification test’ means a licensing or
22 certification test described in section 3501(a)(5) of
23 title 38, United States Code.

24 “(2) COMPUTATION.—Subject to paragraph (4),
25 the amount of financial assistance payable under

1 this subpart for a licensing or certification test is
2 the lesser of \$2,000 or the fee charged for the li-
3 censing or certification test.

4 “(3) NUMBER OF MONTHS.—The number of
5 months of entitlement charged in the case of an eli-
6 gible person for a licensing or certification test is
7 equal to the quotient (including any fraction) ob-
8 tained by dividing—

9 “(A) the total amount paid to the eligible
10 person for the licensing or certification test; by

11 “(B) the full-time monthly institutional
12 rate of the financial assistance which, but for
13 paragraph (2), the eligible person would other-
14 wise be paid under this subpart.

15 “(4) LIMITATION.—In no event shall payment
16 of financial assistance under this subsection for a li-
17 censing or certification test exceed the amount of the
18 amount to which an eligible individual is entitled
19 under this subpart.

20 “(f) NATIONAL TESTS FOR ADMISSION OR OPPOR-
21 TUNITY.—

22 “(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
23 ‘national test’ means a national test for admission or
24 national test providing an opportunity for course

1 credit at institutions of higher learning described in
2 section 3501(a)(5) of title 38, United States Code.

3 “(2) NATIONAL TESTS.—Subject to paragraph
4 (4), the amount of financial assistance payable
5 under this subpart for a national test is the amount
6 of the fee charged for the national test.

7 “(3) NUMBER OF MONTHS.—The number of
8 months of entitlement charged in the case of an eli-
9 gible person for a national test is equal to the
10 quotient (including any fraction) obtained by divid-
11 ing—

12 “(A) the total amount of financial assist-
13 ance paid to the eligible person for the national
14 test; by

15 “(B) the full-time monthly institutional
16 rate of financial assistance which, but for para-
17 graph (2), the eligible person would otherwise
18 be paid under this subpart.

19 “(4) LIMITATION.—In no event shall payment
20 of financial assistance under this subsection for a
21 national test exceed the amount of the amount to
22 which an eligible individual is entitled under this
23 subpart.

24 “(g) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—Amounts under
25 this section shall be indexed annually to the college tuition

1 and fees component of the Consumer Price Index for All
2 Urban Consumers.”.

3 **SEC. 11. GAO STUDY.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the
5 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
6 of the United States shall submit a report examining and
7 identifying ways to improve access to and the processing
8 of claims under the Public Safety Officers’ Benefit pro-
9 gram under part L of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control
10 and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281 et seq.)
11 to—

12 (1) the Committee on the Judiciary and the
13 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
14 sions of the Senate; and

15 (2) the Committee on the Judiciary and the
16 Committee on Education and the Workforce of the
17 House of Representatives.

18 (b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under sub-
19 section (a) shall examine—

20 (1) factors that may hinder access to the edu-
21 cation assistance benefit under subpart 2 of part L
22 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe
23 Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.), such
24 as lack of awareness, delays in the application proc-

1 ess, or the timely processing of deaths and disability
2 claims; and

3 (2) the extent to which eligibility for benefits
4 and assistance under the Public Safety Officers'
5 Benefit program under part L of title I of the Omni-
6 bus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34
7 U.S.C. 10281 et seq.) is communicated to officers
8 upon employment and to eligible family members fol-
9 lowing the loss of a public safety officer.

