

Suspend the Rules And Pass the Bill, H.R. 3016, with Amendments

(The amendments strike all after the enacting clause and insert a new text and a new title)

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3016

To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of podiatrists in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2015

Mr. WENSTRUP (for himself, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. RUIZ, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of podiatrists in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Veterans Employment, Education, and Healthcare Im-
6 provement Act”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
8 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—VETERANS HEALTH CARE

- Sec. 101. Role of podiatrists in Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 102. Priority of medal of honor recipients in health care system of Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 103. Improvement of care provided to newborn children.
- Sec. 104. Comptroller General audit of budget of Veterans Health Administration.
- Sec. 105. Outreach to veterans regarding effect of certain delayed payments by Department of Veterans Affairs Chief Business Office.
- Sec. 106. Department of Veterans Affairs pilot program on dog training therapy.

TITLE II—VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION

- Sec. 201. Establishment of Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.
- Sec. 202. Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition.

TITLE III—EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AND VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

- Sec. 301. Modification and improvement of transfer of unused education benefits to family members under Department of Veterans Affairs Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program.
- Sec. 302. Clarification of eligibility for Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship.
- Sec. 303. Approval of courses of education and training for purposes of the vocational rehabilitation program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 304. Authority to prioritize vocational rehabilitation services based on need.
- Sec. 305. Recodification and improvement of election process for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program.
- Sec. 306. Clarification of assistance provided for certain flight training and other programs of education.
- Sec. 307. Consideration of certain time spent receiving medical care from Secretary of Defense as active duty for purposes of eligibility for post-9/11 educational assistance.
- Sec. 308. Work-study allowance.
- Sec. 309. Vocational rehabilitation and education action plan.
- Sec. 310. Reduction in redundancy and inefficiencies in vocational rehabilitation claims processing.

TITLE IV—ADMINISTRATION OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

- Sec. 401. Centralized reporting of veteran enrollment by certain groups, districts, and consortiums of educational institutions.
- Sec. 402. Provision of information regarding veteran entitlement to educational assistance.
- Sec. 403. Role of State approving agencies.
- Sec. 404. Criteria used to approve courses.
- Sec. 405. Compliance surveys.

1 (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
2 7401(1) of such title is amended by striking “Physi-
3 cians, dentists, podiatrists,” and inserting “Physi-
4 cians, dentists,”.

5 (b) QUALIFICATIONS.—Section 7402(b) of such title
6 is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1)—

8 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or
9 of doctor of osteopathy” and inserting “, doctor
10 of osteopathy, or doctor of podiatric medicine”;
11 and

12 (B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “po-
13 diatry,” after “surgery,”;

14 (2) by striking paragraph (5); and

15 (3) by redesignating paragraphs (6) through
16 (14) as paragraphs (5) through (13), respectively.

17 (c) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—Section 7403(a)(2)
18 of such title is amended—

19 (1) by striking subparagraph (C); and

20 (2) by redesignating subparagraphs (D)
21 through (H) as subparagraphs (C) through (G), re-
22 spectively.

23 (d) MODIFICATION OF PAY GRADE.—

24 (1) GRADE.—The list in section 7404(b) of
25 such title is amended by striking “CLINICAL PO-

1 DIATRIST, CHIROPRACTOR, AND OPTOM-
2 ETRIST SCHEDULE” and inserting “CLINICAL
3 CHIROPRACTOR AND OPTOMETRIST SCHED-
4 ULE”.

5 (2) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by
6 paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to a pay pe-
7 riod of the Department of Veterans Affairs begin-
8 ning on or after the date that is 30 days after the
9 date of the enactment of this Act.

10 (e) CONTRACTS FOR SCARCE SERVICES.—Section
11 7409(a) of such title is amended by striking “podia-
12 trists,”.

13 (f) PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION.—Section 7421(b)
14 of such title is amended—

15 (1) by striking paragraph (3); and

16 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through
17 (8) as paragraphs (3) through (7), respectively.

18 (g) MEDICAL DIRECTORS.—Section 7306(a)(4) of
19 such title is amended by inserting “, doctor of podiatric
20 medicine,” after “doctor of medicine”.

21 (h) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by this
22 section shall apply with respect to podiatrists employed by
23 the Department of Veterans Affairs as of the date of the
24 enactment of this Act or who are appointed on or after
25 such date.

1 **SEC. 102. PRIORITY OF MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS IN**
2 **HEALTH CARE SYSTEM OF DEPARTMENT OF**
3 **VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) **ENROLLMENT PRIORITY.**—Section 1705(a) of
5 title 38, United States Code, is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking the period at
7 the end and inserting the following: “and veterans
8 who were awarded the medal of honor under section
9 3741, 6241, or 8741 of title 10 or section 491 of
10 title 14.”; and

11 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking “veterans who
12 were awarded the medal of honor under section
13 3741, 6241, or 8741 of title 10 or section 491 of
14 title 14,”.

15 (b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—Section 1710(a)(2)(D) of such
16 title is amended by inserting after “war” the following:
17 “, who was awarded the medal of honor under section
18 3741, 6241, or 8741 of title 10 or section 491 of title
19 14,”.

20 (c) **EXTENDED CARE SERVICES.**—Section
21 1710B(e)(2) of such title is amended—

22 (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or”;

23 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period
24 at the end and inserting “; or”; and

25 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
26 paragraph:

1 “(D) to a veteran who was awarded the medal
2 of honor under section 3741, 6241, or 8741 of title
3 10 or section 491 of title 14.”.

4 (d) COPAYMENT FOR MEDICATIONS.—Section
5 1722A(a)(3) of such title is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or”;

7 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period
8 at the end and inserting “; or”; and

9 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
10 paragraph:

11 “(D) to a veteran who was awarded the medal
12 of honor under section 3741, 6241, or 8741 of title
13 10 or section 491 of title 14.”.

14 (e) APPLICATION.—The priority of enrollment of
15 medal of honor recipients pursuant to chapter 17 of title
16 38, United States Code, as amended by this section, shall
17 apply to each such recipient, regardless of the date on
18 which the medal is awarded.

19 **SEC. 103. IMPROVEMENT OF CARE PROVIDED TO NEWBORN**
20 **CHILDREN.**

21 Section 1786 of title 38, United States Code, is
22 amended—

23 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “seven days”
24 and inserting “42 days”; and

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

3 “(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than October 31,
4 2016, and each year thereafter through 2020, the Sec-
5 retary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs
6 of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report
7 on the health care services provided under subsection (a)
8 during the fiscal year preceding the date of the report,
9 including the number of newborn children who received
10 such services during such fiscal year.”.

11 **SEC. 104. COMPTROLLER GENERAL AUDIT OF BUDGET OF**
12 **VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 73 of
14 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
15 end the following new section:

16 **“§ 7330B. Comptroller General audit of VHA budget**

17 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the
18 United States shall periodically conduct an audit of ele-
19 ments of the budget of the Veterans Health Administra-
20 tion, including the budget formulation, execution, alloca-
21 tion, and use of funds.

22 “(b) SELECTION OF ELEMENTS.—(1) In selecting
23 elements of the budget of the Veterans Health Administra-
24 tion for purposes of an audit under subsection (a), the
25 Comptroller General shall take into consideration—

1 “(A) knowledge of the programs of the Vet-
2 erans Health Administration;

3 “(B) current issues;

4 “(C) national priorities; and

5 “(D) priorities expressed by the appropriate
6 congressional committees.

7 “(2) Not later than 30 days before conducting an
8 audit under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall
9 submit to the appropriate congressional committees notice
10 of the elements selected by the Comptroller General for
11 purposes of the audit.

12 “(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—
13 In this section, the term ‘appropriate congressional com-
14 mittees’ means—

15 “(1) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, the
16 Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on
17 the Budget of the Senate; and

18 “(2) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, the
19 Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on
20 the Budget of the House of Representatives.”.

21 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
22 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
23 after the item relating to section 7330A the following new
24 item:

 “7330B. Comptroller General audit of VHA budget.”.

1 **SEC. 105. OUTREACH TO VETERANS REGARDING EFFECT**
2 **OF CERTAIN DELAYED PAYMENTS BY DE-**
3 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CHIEF**
4 **BUSINESS OFFICE.**

5 (a) OUTREACH.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
6 shall conduct outreach, including through national and
7 local veterans service organizations, to inform veterans of
8 how to resolve credit issues caused by delayed payment
9 of a claim for emergency hospital care, medical services,
10 or other emergency health care furnished through a non-
11 Department of Veterans Affairs provider. The Secretary
12 shall establish a toll-free telephone number for veterans
13 to report such credit issues to the Chief Business Office
14 of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

15 (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—During the five-year period
17 beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act,
18 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall annually sub-
19 mit to Congress a report on the effectiveness of the
20 Chief Business Office in providing timely payment of
21 proper invoices for emergency hospital care, medical
22 services, or other emergency health care furnished
23 through non-Department of Veterans Affairs pro-
24 viders by the required payment date during both the
25 five-year period preceding the date of the report and
26 the one-year period preceding such date. For any

1 part of the period covered by a report under this
2 subsection that occurred before October 1, 2014, the
3 report shall evaluate the provision of such payments
4 by the Veterans Integrated Service Networks.

5 (2) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The reports under
6 paragraph (1) shall include, for each period covered
7 by the report, the following:

8 (A) The number of veterans who contacted
9 the Secretary regarding a delayed payment that
10 negatively affected, or will potentially negatively
11 affect, the credit of the veteran.

12 (B) The total amount of interest penalties
13 paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under
14 section 3902 of title 31, United States Code, by
15 reason of a delayed payment.

16 (C) The number of proper invoices sub-
17 mitted, listed in a table for each quarter and
18 fiscal year of each such period that includes—

19 (i) the total amount owed by the Sec-
20 retary under the proper invoices;

21 (ii) the payment status of each proper
22 invoice, as of the date of the report; and

23 (iii) the period that elapsed until each
24 proper invoice was paid, including an ex-
25 planation of any delayed payment.

1 (D) Any comments regarding delayed pay-
2 ments made by medical providers.

3 (E) A description of the best practices that
4 the Chief Business Office can carry out to pro-
5 vide timely payment of a proper invoice, includ-
6 ing a plan to improve such timely payments.

7 (c) QUARTERLY REPORTS ON PENDING CLAIMS.—
8 During the five-year period beginning on the date of the
9 enactment of this Act, the Chief Business Office of the
10 Department of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress
11 quarterly reports on the number of pending claims for re-
12 imbursement for emergency hospital care, medical serv-
13 ices, and other emergency health care furnished through
14 non-Department of Veterans Affairs providers. Each such
15 report shall include each of the following:

16 (1) The total number of such pending claims
17 for each hospital system of the Department, as of
18 the last day of the quarter covered by the report.

19 (2) The total number of veterans who sub-
20 mitted such a pending claim in each State, as of
21 such day.

22 (3) The aggregate amount of all such pending
23 claims in each State, as of such day.

24 (4) As of such day—

1 (A) the number of such pending claims
2 that have been pending for 30 days or longer;

3 (B) the number of such pending claims
4 that have been pending for 90 days or longer;
5 and

6 (C) the number of such pending claims
7 that have been pending for 365 days or longer.

8 (5) For each hospital system, for the quarter
9 covered by the report—

10 (A) the number of claims for reimburse-
11 ment for emergency hospital care, medical serv-
12 ices, and other emergency health care furnished
13 through non-Department of Veterans Affairs
14 providers approved during such quarter;

15 (B) the number of such claims denied dur-
16 ing such quarter; and

17 (C) the number of such claims denied list-
18 ed by each denial reason group.

19 (d) COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of
21 the United States shall conduct a study that evalu-
22 ates the effectiveness of the Chief Business Office in
23 providing timely payment of a proper invoice for
24 emergency hospital care, medical services, or other
25 emergency health care furnished through non-De-

1 department of Veterans Affairs providers by the re-
2 quired payment date.

3 (2) SUBMITTAL.—The Comptroller General
4 shall submit to Congress a report on the study con-
5 ducted under paragraph (1), including the total
6 amount of interest penalties paid by the Secretary of
7 Veterans Affairs under section 3902 of title 31,
8 United States Code, by reason of a delayed payment.

9 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) The term “delayed payment” means a prop-
11 er invoice that is not paid by the Secretary of Vet-
12 erans Affairs until after the required payment date.

13 (2) The term “proper invoice” has the meaning
14 given that term in section 3901(a) of title 31,
15 United States Code.

16 (3) The term “required payment date” means
17 the date that payment is due for a contract pursu-
18 ant to section 3903(a) of title 31, United States
19 Code.

20 **SEC. 106. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT PRO-**
21 **GRAM ON DOG TRAINING THERAPY.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Commencing not later than 120
23 days after the date of the enactment of the Act, the Sec-
24 retary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program
25 under which the Secretary shall enter into a contract with

1 one or more appropriate non-government entities for the
2 purpose of assessing the effectiveness of addressing post-
3 deployment mental health and post-traumatic stress dis-
4 order symptoms through a therapeutic medium of training
5 service dogs for veterans with disabilities.

6 (b) DURATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The pilot pro-
7 gram required by subsection (a) shall be carried out dur-
8 ing the five-year period beginning on the date of the com-
9 mencement of the pilot program.

10 (c) LOCATIONS OF PILOT PROGRAM.—In entering
11 into contracts for purposes of the pilot program, the Sec-
12 retary shall seek to enter into contracts with appropriate
13 non-government entities located in close proximity to at
14 least three but not more than five medical centers of the
15 Department.

16 (d) APPROPRIATE NON-GOVERNMENT ENTITIES.—
17 For purposes of the pilot program, an appropriate non-
18 government entity is an entity that is certified in the train-
19 ing and handling of service dogs and that has a training
20 area that would be appropriate for use in educating vet-
21 erans with mental health conditions in the art and science
22 of service dog training and handling. Such training area
23 shall—

24 (1) include a dedicated space that is suitable
25 for grooming and training dogs indoors;

- 1 (2) be wheelchair accessible;
- 2 (3) include classroom or lecture space;
- 3 (4) include office space for staff;
- 4 (5) include a suitable space for storing training
- 5 equipment;
- 6 (6) provide for periodic use of other training
- 7 areas for training the dogs with wheelchairs and
- 8 conducting other exercises;
- 9 (7) include outdoor exercise and toileting space
- 10 for dogs; and
- 11 (8) provide transportation for weekly field trips
- 12 to train dogs in other environments.

13 (e) DESIGN OF PILOT PROGRAM.—Each contract en-
14 tered into under subsection (a) shall provide that the non-
15 government entity shall—

- 16 (1) ensure that veterans participating in the
- 17 program receive training from certified service dog
- 18 training instructors;
- 19 (2) ensure that in selecting assistance dogs for
- 20 use in the program, dogs residing in animal shelters
- 21 or foster homes are looked at as an option, if appro-
22 priate, and ensure that all dogs used in the program
- 23 have adequate temperament and health clearances;

1 (3) ensure that each service dog in training
2 participating in the pilot program is taught all es-
3 sential commands pertaining to service dog skills;

4 (4) ensure that each service dog in training
5 lives at the pilot program site or a volunteer foster
6 home in the vicinity of such site while receiving
7 training;

8 (5) ensure that the pilot program involves both
9 lecture of service dog training methodologies and
10 practical hands-on training and grooming of service
11 dogs; and

12 (6) ensure that the pilot program is designed
13 to—

14 (A) maximize the therapeutic benefits to
15 veterans participating in the program; and

16 (B) provide well-trained service dogs to
17 veterans with disabilities; and

18 (7) in hiring service dog training instructors to
19 carry out training under the pilot program, give a
20 preference to veterans who have successfully grad-
21 uated from post-traumatic stress disorder or other
22 residential treatment programs and who have re-
23 ceived adequate certification in service dog training.

1 (f) ADMINISTRATION.—In order to carry out the pilot
2 program under section (a), the Secretary of Veterans Af-
3 fairs shall—

4 (1) administer the program through the Recre-
5 ation Therapy Service of the Department of Vet-
6 erans Affairs under the direction of a certified rec-
7 reational therapist with sufficient administrative ex-
8 perience to oversee the pilot program; and

9 (2) establish a director of service dog training
10 with a background working in social services, experi-
11 ence in teaching others to train service dogs in a vo-
12 cational setting, and at least one year of experience
13 working with veterans or active duty service mem-
14 bers with post-traumatic stress disorder in a clinical
15 setting.

16 (g) VETERAN ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary shall se-
17 lect veterans for participation in the pilot program. A vet-
18 eran with post-traumatic stress disorder or other post-de-
19 ployment mental health condition may volunteer to partici-
20 pate in the pilot program, if the Secretary determines that
21 there are adequate program resources available for such
22 veteran at the pilot program site. Veterans may partici-
23 pate in the pilot program in conjunction with the com-
24 pensated work therapy program of the Department of Vet-
25 erans Affairs.

1 (h) COLLECTION OF DATA.—The Secretary shall col-
2 lect data on the pilot program required under subsection
3 (a) to determine how effective the program is for the vet-
4 erans participating in the program. Such data shall in-
5 clude data to determine how effectively the program as-
6 sists veterans in—

7 (1) reducing stigma associated with post-trau-
8 matic stress disorder or other post-deployment men-
9 tal health condition;

10 (2) improving emotional regulation;

11 (3) improving patience;

12 (4) instilling or re-establishing a sense of pur-
13 pose;

14 (5) providing an opportunity to help fellow vet-
15 erans;

16 (6) reintegrating into the community;

17 (7) exposing the dog to new environments and
18 in doing so, helping the veteran reduce social isola-
19 tion and withdrawal;

20 (8) building relationship skills, including par-
21 enting skills;

22 (9) relaxing the hyper-vigilant survival state;

23 (10) improving sleep patterns; and

24 (11) enabling veterans to decrease the use of
25 pain medication.

1 (i) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one year
2 after the date of the commencement of the pilot program
3 under subsection (a), and each year thereafter for the du-
4 ration of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to
5 Congress a report on the pilot program. Each such report
6 shall include—

7 (1) the number of veterans participating in the
8 pilot program;

9 (2) a description of the services carried out
10 under the pilot program;

11 (3) the effects that participating in the pilot
12 program has on the following—

13 (A) symptoms of post-traumatic stress dis-
14 order and post-deployment adjustment difficul-
15 ties, including depression, maintenance of sobri-
16 ety, suicidal ideations, and homelessness;

17 (B) potentially relevant physiological mark-
18 ers that possibly relate to the interactions with
19 the service dogs;

20 (C) family dynamics;

21 (D) insomnia and pain management; and

22 (E) overall well-being; and

23 (4) the recommendations of the Secretary with
24 respect to the extension or expansion of the pilot
25 program.

1 (j) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this section,
2 the term “service dog training instructor” means an in-
3 structor who provides the direct training of veterans with
4 post-traumatic stress disorder and other post-deployment
5 issues in the art and science of service dog training and
6 handling.

7 **TITLE II—VETERANS ECONOMIC**
8 **OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSI-**
9 **TION ADMINISTRATION**

10 **SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS ECONOMIC OP-**
11 **PORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRA-**
12 **TION.**

13 (a) VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRAN-
14 SITION ADMINISTRATION.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Part V of title 38, United
16 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
17 following new chapter:

18 **“CHAPTER 80—VETERANS ECONOMIC OP-**
19 **PORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMIN-**
20 **ISTRATION**

“Sec.

“8001. Organization of Administration.

“8002. Functions of Administration.

21 **“§ 8001. Organization of Administration**

22 “(a) VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND
23 TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.—There is in the Depart-
24 ment of Veterans Affairs a Veterans Economic Oppor-

1 tunity and Transition Administration. The primary func-
2 tion of the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transi-
3 tion Administration is the administration of the programs
4 of the Department that provide assistance related to eco-
5 nomic opportunity to veterans and their dependents and
6 survivors.

7 “(b) UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC OPPOR-
8 TUNITY AND TRANSITION.—The Veterans Economic Op-
9 portunity and Transition Administration is under the
10 Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and
11 Transition, who is directly responsible to the Secretary for
12 the operations of the Administration.

13 **“§ 8002. Functions of Administration**

14 “The Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition
15 Administration is responsible for the administration of the
16 following programs of the Department:

17 “(1) Vocational rehabilitation and employment
18 programs.

19 “(2) Educational assistance programs.

20 “(3) Veterans’ housing loan and related pro-
21 grams.

22 “(4) The verification of small businesses owned
23 and controlled by veterans pursuant to subsection (f)
24 of section 8127 of this title, including the adminis-

1 tration of the database of veteran-owned businesses
2 described in such subsection.

3 “(5) The Transition Assistance Program under
4 section 1144 of title 10.

5 “(6) Any other program of the Department
6 that the Secretary determines appropriate.”.

7 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The tables of
8 chapters at the beginning of title 38, United States
9 Code, and of part V of title 38, United States Code,
10 are each amended by inserting after the item relat-
11 ing to chapter 79 the following new item:

**“80. Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Ad-
 ministration 8001”.**

12 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Chapter 80 of title 38,
13 United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take
14 effect on October 1, 2017.

15 (c) FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES.—For fiscal years 2017
16 and 2018, the total number of full-time equivalent employ-
17 ees authorized for the Veterans Benefits Administration
18 and the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition
19 Administration, as established under chapter 80 of title
20 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), may
21 not exceed 21,913.

22 **SEC. 202. UNDER SECRETARY FOR VETERANS ECONOMIC**
23 **OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION.**

24 (a) UNDER SECRETARY.—

1 tunity and Transition occurs or is anticipated, the Sec-
2 retary shall establish a commission to recommend individ-
3 uals to the President for appointment to the position.

4 “(2) A commission established under this subsection
5 shall be composed of the following members appointed by
6 the Secretary:

7 “(A) Three persons representing education and
8 training, vocational rehabilitation, employment, real
9 estate, mortgage finance and related industries, and
10 survivor benefits activities affected by the Veterans
11 Economic Opportunity and Transition Administra-
12 tion.

13 “(B) Two persons representing veterans served
14 by the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transi-
15 tion Administration.

16 “(C) Two persons who have experience in the
17 management of private sector benefits programs of
18 similar content and scope to the economic oppor-
19 tunity and transition programs of the Department.

20 “(D) The Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

21 “(E) The chairman of the Veterans’ Advisory
22 Committee on Education formed under section 3692
23 of this title.

24 “(F) One person who has held the position of
25 Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity

1 and Transition, if the Secretary determines that it
2 is desirable for such person to be a member of the
3 commission.

4 “(3) A commission established under this subsection
5 shall recommend at least three individuals for appoint-
6 ment to the position of Under Secretary for Veterans Eco-
7 nomic Opportunity and Transition. The commission shall
8 submit all recommendations to the Secretary. The Sec-
9 retary shall forward the recommendations to the President
10 and the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate
11 and House of Representatives with any comments the Sec-
12 retary considers appropriate. Thereafter, the President
13 may request the commission to recommend additional in-
14 dividuals for appointment.

15 “(4) The Assistant Secretary or Deputy Assistant
16 Secretary of Veterans Affairs who performs personnel
17 management and labor relations functions shall serve as
18 the executive secretary of a commission established under
19 this subsection.

20 “(d) QUALIFICATIONS OF RECOMMENDED INDIVID-
21 UALS.—Each individual recommended to the President by
22 the commission for appointment to the position of Under
23 Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transi-
24 tion shall be an individual who has held a senior level posi-

1 tion in the private sector with responsibilities relating to
2 at least one of the following:

3 “(1) Education policy.

4 “(2) Vocational rehabilitation.

5 “(3) Employment.

6 “(4) Job placement.

7 “(5) Home loan finance.

8 “(6) Small business development.”.

9 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
10 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended
11 by inserting after the item relating to section 306
12 the following new item:

“306A. Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition.”.

13 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title 38, United
14 States Code, is further amended—

15 (1) in section 306(c)(2), by striking subpara-
16 graphs (A) and (E) and redesignating subpara-
17 graphs (B), (C), (D), and (F), as subparagraphs (A)
18 through (D), respectively;

19 (2) in section 317(d)(2), by inserting after
20 “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the
21 Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity
22 and Transition,”;

23 (3) in section 318(d)(2), by inserting after
24 “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the

1 Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity
2 and Transition,”;

3 (4) in section 516(e)(2)(C), by striking “Health
4 and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting
5 “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the
6 Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity
7 and Transition”;

8 (5) in section 541(a)(2)(B), by striking “Health
9 and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting
10 “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the
11 Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity
12 and Transition”;

13 (6) in section 542(a)(2)(B)(iii), by striking
14 “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and
15 inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits,
16 and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Op-
17 portunity and Transition”;

18 (7) in section 544(a)(2)(B)(vi), by striking
19 “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and
20 inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits,
21 and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Op-
22 portunity and Transition”;

23 (8) in section 709(c)(2)(A), by inserting after
24 “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the

1 Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity
2 and Transition,”;

3 (9) in section 7701(a), by inserting after “as-
4 sistance” the following: “, other than assistance re-
5 lated to Economic Opportunity and Transition,”;
6 and

7 (10) in section 7703, by striking paragraphs (2)
8 and (3) and redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as
9 paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

10 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 306A of title 38,
11 United States Code, as added by subsection (a), and the
12 amendments made by this section, shall take effect on Oc-
13 tober 1, 2017.

14 **TITLE III—EDUCATION ASSIST-**
15 **ANCE AND VOCATIONAL RE-**
16 **HABILITATION**

17 **SEC. 301. MODIFICATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF TRANS-**
18 **FER OF UNUSED EDUCATION BENEFITS TO**
19 **FAMILY MEMBERS UNDER DEPARTMENT OF**
20 **VETERANS AFFAIRS POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL**
21 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

22 (a) RATE OF PAYMENT.—Subsection (h)(3)(B) of
23 section 3319 of title 38, United States Code, is amended
24 by inserting before the period at the end the following:
25 “, except that the amount of the monthly stipend de-

1 scribed in subsection (c)(1)(B) or (g)(3)(A)(ii) of section
2 3313, as the case may be, shall be payable in an amount
3 equal to 50 percent of the amount of such stipend that
4 would otherwise be payable under this chapter to the indi-
5 vidual making the transfer”.

6 (b) **APPLICABILITY.**—The amendment made by this
7 section shall apply with respect to an election to transfer
8 entitlement under section 3319 of title 38, United States
9 Code, that is made on or after the date that is 180 days
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

11 **SEC. 302. CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR MARINE**
12 **GUNNERY SERGEANT JOHN DAVID FRY**
13 **SCHOLARSHIP.**

14 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 701(d) of the Veterans
15 Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public
16 Law 113–146; 128 Stat. 1796; 38 U.S.C. 3311 note) is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 “(d) **APPLICABILITY.**—

19 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The amendments made by
20 this section shall apply with respect to a quarter, se-
21 mester, or term, as applicable, commencing on or
22 after January 1, 2015.

23 “(2) **DEATHS THAT OCCURRED BETWEEN SEP-**
24 **TEMBER 11, 2001, AND DECEMBER 31, 2005.**—For
25 purposes of section 3311(f)(2) of title 38, United

1 States Code, any member of the Armed Forces who
2 died during the period beginning on September 11,
3 2001, and ending on December 31, 2005, is deemed
4 to have died on January 1, 2006.”.

5 (b) ELECTION ON RECEIPT OF CERTAIN BENE-
6 FITS.—Section 3311(f) of title 38, United States Code,
7 is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “A surviving
9 spouse” and inserting “Except as provided in para-
10 graph (4), a surviving spouse”;

11 (2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-
12 graph (5); and

13 (3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
14 lowing new paragraph (4):

15 “(4) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN ELECTIONS.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An election made
17 under paragraph (3) by a spouse described in
18 subparagraph (B) may not be treated as irrev-
19 ovable if such election occurred before the date
20 of the enactment of this paragraph.

21 “(B) ELIGIBLE SURVIVING SPOUSE.—A
22 spouse described in this subparagraph is an in-
23 dividual—

1 “(i) who is entitled to assistance
2 under subsection (a) pursuant to para-
3 graph (9) of subsection (b); and

4 “(ii) who was the spouse of a member
5 of the Armed Forces who died during the
6 period beginning on September 11, 2001,
7 and ending on December 31, 2005.”.

8 (c) **TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.**—Paragraph (5) of
9 subsection (f) of section 3311 of title 38, United States
10 Code, as redesignated by subsection (b)(2), is amended by
11 striking “that paragraph” and inserting “paragraph (9)
12 of subsection (b)”.

13 (d) **YELLOW RIBBON G.I. EDUCATION ENHANCE-**
14 **MENT PROGRAM.**—Section 3317(a) of such title is amend-
15 ed by striking “paragraphs (1) and (2) of section
16 3311(b)” and inserting “paragraphs (1), (2), and (9) of
17 section 3311(b) of this title”.

18 **SEC. 303. APPROVAL OF COURSES OF EDUCATION AND**
19 **TRAINING FOR PURPOSES OF THE VOCA-**
20 **TIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM OF THE**
21 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

22 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3104(b) of title 38,
23 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
24 following new sentence: “To the maximum extent prac-
25 ticable, a course of education or training may be pursued

1 by a veteran as part of a rehabilitation program under
2 this chapter only if the course is approved for purposes
3 of chapter 30 or 33 of this title. The Secretary may waive
4 the requirement under the preceding sentence to the ex-
5 tent the Secretary determines appropriate.”.

6 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by
7 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to a course of edu-
8 cation or training pursued by a veteran who first begins
9 a program of rehabilitation under chapter 31 of title 38,
10 United States Code, on or after the date that is one year
11 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

12 **SEC. 304. AUTHORITY TO PRIORITIZE VOCATIONAL REHA-**
13 **BILITATION SERVICES BASED ON NEED.**

14 Section 3104 of title 38, United States Code, as
15 amended by section 303, is further amended by adding
16 at the end the following new subsection:

17 “(c)(1) The Secretary shall have the authority to ad-
18 minister this chapter by prioritizing the provision of serv-
19 ices under this chapter based on need, as determined by
20 the Secretary. In evaluating need for purposes of this sub-
21 section, the Secretary shall consider disability ratings, the
22 severity of employment handicaps, qualification for a pro-
23 gram of independent living, income, and any other factor
24 the Secretary determines appropriate.

1 “(2) Not later than 90 days before making any
2 changes to the prioritization of the provision of services
3 under this chapter as authorized under paragraph (1), the
4 Secretary shall submit to Congress a plan describing such
5 changes.”.

6 **SEC. 305. RECODIFICATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF ELEC-**
7 **TION PROCESS FOR POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL**
8 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 33 of
10 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
11 end the following new section:

12 **“§ 3326. Election to receive educational assistance**

13 “(a) INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE TO ELECT PARTICIPA-
14 TION IN POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—An indi-
15 vidual may elect to receive educational assistance under
16 this chapter if such individual—

17 “(1) as of August 1, 2009—

18 “(A) is entitled to basic educational assist-
19 ance under chapter 30 of the title and has used,
20 but retains unused, entitlement under that
21 chapter;

22 “(B) is entitled to educational assistance
23 under chapter 107, 1606, or 1607 of title 10
24 and has used, but retains unused, entitlement
25 under the applicable chapter;

1 “(C) is entitled to basic educational assist-
2 ance under chapter 30 of this title but has not
3 used any entitlement under that chapter;

4 “(D) is entitled to educational assistance
5 under chapter 107, 1606, or 1607 of title 10
6 but has not used any entitlement under such
7 chapter;

8 “(E) is a member of the Armed Forces
9 who is eligible for receipt of basic educational
10 assistance under chapter 30 this title and is
11 making contributions toward such assistance
12 under section 3011(b) or 3012(c) of this title;
13 or

14 “(F) is a member of the Armed Forces
15 who is not entitled to basic educational assist-
16 ance under chapter 30 of this title by reason of
17 an election under section 3011(c)(1) or
18 3012(d)(1) of this title; and

19 “(2) as of the date of the individual’s election
20 under this paragraph, meets the requirements for
21 entitlement to educational assistance under this
22 chapter.

23 “(b) CESSATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD GI
24 BILL.—Effective as of the first month beginning on or
25 after the date of an election under subsection (a) of an

1 individual described by paragraph (1)(E) of that sub-
2 section, the obligation of the individual to make contribu-
3 tions under section 3011(b) or 3012(c) of this title, as
4 applicable, shall cease, and the requirements of such sec-
5 tion shall be deemed to be no longer applicable to the indi-
6 vidual.

7 “(c) REVOCATION OF REMAINING TRANSFERRED
8 ENTITLEMENT.—

9 “(1) ELECTION TO REVOKE.—If, on the date an
10 individual described in paragraph (1)(A) or (1)(C) of
11 subsection (a) makes an election under that sub-
12 section, a transfer of the entitlement of the indi-
13 vidual to basic educational assistance under section
14 3020 of this title is in effect and a number of
15 months of the entitlement so transferred remain un-
16 utilized, the individual may elect to revoke all or a
17 portion of the entitlement so transferred that re-
18 mains unutilized.

19 “(2) AVAILABILITY OF REVOKED ENTITLE-
20 MENT.—Any entitlement revoked by an individual
21 under this paragraph shall no longer be available to
22 the dependent to whom transferred, but shall be
23 available to the individual instead for educational as-
24 sistance under chapter 33 of this title in accordance
25 with the provisions of this section.

1 “(3) AVAILABILITY OF UNREVOKED ENTITLE-
2 MENT.—Any entitlement described in paragraph (1)
3 that is not revoked by an individual in accordance
4 with that paragraph shall remain available to the de-
5 pendent or dependents concerned in accordance with
6 the current transfer of such entitlement under sec-
7 tion 3020 of this title.

8 “(d) POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2)
10 and except as provided in subsection (e), an indi-
11 vidual making an election under subsection (a) shall
12 be entitled to educational assistance under this chap-
13 ter in accordance with the provisions of this chapter,
14 instead of basic educational assistance under chapter
15 30 this title, or educational assistance under chapter
16 107, 1606, or 1607 of title 10, as applicable.

17 “(2) LIMITATION ON ENTITLEMENT FOR CER-
18 TAIN INDIVIDUALS.—In the case of an individual
19 making an election under subsection (a) who is de-
20 scribed by paragraph (1)(A) of that subsection, the
21 number of months of entitlement of the individual to
22 educational assistance under this chapter 33 shall be
23 the number of months equal to—

1 “(A) the number of months of unused enti-
2 tlement of the individual under chapter 30 of
3 this title, as of the date of the election, plus

4 “(B) the number of months, if any, of enti-
5 tlement revoked by the individual under sub-
6 section (c)(1).

7 “(e) CONTINUING ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL
8 ASSISTANCE NOT AVAILABLE UNDER 9/11 ASSISTANCE
9 PROGRAM.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the event educational
11 assistance to which an individual making an election
12 under subsection (a) would be entitled under chapter
13 30 of this title, or chapter 107, 1606, or 1607 of
14 title 10, as applicable, is not authorized to be avail-
15 able to the individual under the provisions of this
16 chapter the individual shall remain entitled to such
17 educational assistance in accordance with the provi-
18 sions of the applicable chapter.

19 “(2) CHARGE FOR USE OF ENTITLEMENT.—
20 The utilization by an individual of entitlement under
21 paragraph (1) shall be chargeable against the enti-
22 tlement of the individual to educational assistance
23 under this chapter at the rate of one month of enti-
24 tlement under this chapter for each month of entitle-
25 ment utilized by the individual under paragraph (1)

1 (as determined as if such entitlement were utilized
2 under the provisions of chapter 30 of this title, or
3 chapter 107, 1606, or 1607 of title 10, as applica-
4 ble).

5 “(f) ADDITIONAL POST-9/11 ASSISTANCE FOR MEM-
6 BERS HAVING MADE CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD GI
7 BILL.—

8 “(1) ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—In the case of
9 an individual making an election under subsection
10 (a) who is described by subparagraph (A), (C), or
11 (E) of paragraph (1) of that subsection, the amount
12 of educational assistance payable to the individual
13 under this chapter 33 as a monthly stipend payable
14 under paragraph (1)(B) of section 3313(c) of this
15 title, or under paragraphs (2) through (7) of that
16 section (as applicable), shall be the amount other-
17 wise payable as a monthly stipend under the applica-
18 ble paragraph increased by the amount equal to—

19 “(A) the total amount of contributions to-
20 ward basic educational assistance made by the
21 individual under section 3011(b) or 3012(c) of
22 this title, as of the date of the election, multi-
23 plied by

24 “(B) the fraction—

25 “(i) the numerator of which is—

1 “(I) the number of months of en-
2 titlement to basic educational assist-
3 ance under chapter 30 of this title re-
4 maining to the individual at the time
5 of the election; plus

6 “(II) the number of months, if
7 any, of entitlement under such chap-
8 ter 30 revoked by the individual under
9 subsection (c)(1); and

10 “(ii) the denominator of which is 36
11 months.

12 “(2) MONTHS OF REMAINING ENTITLEMENT
13 FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.—In the case of an indi-
14 vidual covered by paragraph (1) who is described by
15 subsection (a)(1)(E), the number of months of enti-
16 tlement to basic educational assistance remaining to
17 the individual for purposes of paragraph
18 (1)(B)(i)(II) shall be 36 months.

19 “(3) TIMING OF PAYMENT.—The amount pay-
20 able with respect to an individual under paragraph
21 (1) shall be paid to the individual together with the
22 last payment of the monthly stipend payable to the
23 individual under paragraph (1)(B) of section
24 3313(c) of this title, or under subsections (b)
25 through (g) of that section (as applicable), before

1 the exhaustion of the individual's entitlement to edu-
2 cational assistance under this chapter.

3 “(g) CONTINUING ENTITLEMENT TO ADDITIONAL
4 ASSISTANCE FOR CRITICAL SKILLS OR SPECIALITY AND
5 ADDITIONAL SERVICE.—An individual making an election
6 under subsection (a)(1) who, at the time of the election,
7 is entitled to increased educational assistance under sec-
8 tion 3015(d) of this title, or section 16131(i) of title 10,
9 or supplemental educational assistance under subchapter
10 III of chapter 30 of this title, shall remain entitled to such
11 increased educational assistance or supplemental edu-
12 cational assistance in the utilization of entitlement to edu-
13 cational assistance under this chapter, in an amount equal
14 to the quarter, semester, or term, as applicable, equivalent
15 of the monthly amount of such increased educational as-
16 sistance or supplemental educational assistance payable
17 with respect to the individual at the time of the election.

18 “(h) ALTERNATIVE ELECTION BY SECRETARY.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an individual
20 who, on or after January 1, 2016, submits to the
21 Secretary an election under this section that the
22 Secretary determines is clearly against the interests
23 of the individual, or who fails to make an election
24 under this section, the Secretary may make an alter-
25 native election on behalf of the individual that the

1 Secretary determines is in the best interests of the
2 individual.

3 “(2) NOTICE.—If the Secretary makes an elec-
4 tion on behalf of an individual under this subsection,
5 the Secretary shall notify the individual by not later
6 than seven days after making such election and shall
7 provide the individual with a 30-day period, begin-
8 ning on the date of the individual’s receipt of such
9 notice, during which the individual may modify or
10 revoke the election made by the Secretary on the in-
11 dividual’s behalf. The Secretary shall include, as
12 part of such notice, a clear statement of why the al-
13 ternative election made by the Secretary is in the
14 best interests of the individual as compared to the
15 election submitted by the individual. The Secretary
16 shall provide the notice required under this para-
17 graph by electronic means whenever possible.

18 “(i) IRREVOCABILITY OF ELECTIONS.—An election
19 under subsection (a) or (c)(1) is irrevocable.”.

20 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
21 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
22 at the end the following new item:

“3326. Election to receive educational assistance.”.

23 (c) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Subsection (c) of section
24 5003 of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance

1 Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–252; 38 U.S.C. 3301 note)
2 is hereby repealed.

3 **SEC. 306. CLARIFICATION OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED FOR**
4 **CERTAIN FLIGHT TRAINING AND OTHER PRO-**
5 **GRAMS OF EDUCATION.**

6 (a) FLIGHT TRAINING.—Subsection (c)(1)(A) of sec-
7 tion 3313 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

8 (1) in clause (i)—

9 (A) by redesignating subclauses (I) and
10 (II) as items (aa) and (bb), respectively;

11 (B) by striking “In the case of a program
12 of education pursued at a public institution of
13 higher learning” and inserting “(I) Subject to
14 subclause (II), in the case of a program of edu-
15 cation pursued at a public institution of higher
16 learning not described in clause (ii)(II)(bb)”;
17 and

18 (C) by adding at the end the following new
19 subclause:

20 “(II) In determining the actual net
21 cost for in-State tuition and fees pursuant
22 to subclause (I), the Secretary may not
23 pay for tuition and fees relating to flight
24 training.”; and

25 (2) in clause (ii)—

1 (A) in subclause (I), by redesignating
2 items (aa) and (bb) as subitems (AA) and
3 (BB), respectively;

4 (B) in subclause (II), by redesignating
5 items (aa) and (bb) as subitems (AA) and
6 (BB), respectively;

7 (C) by redesignating subclauses (I) and
8 (II) as items (aa) and (bb), respectively;

9 (D) by striking “In the case of a program
10 of education pursued at a non-public or foreign
11 institution of higher learning” and inserting
12 “(I) In the case of a program of education de-
13 scribed in subclause (II)”;

14 (E) by adding at the end the following new
15 subclause:

16 “(II) A program of education de-
17 scribed in this subclause is any of the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(aa) A program of education
20 pursued at a non-public or foreign in-
21 stitution of higher learning.

22 “(bb) A program of education
23 pursued at a public institution of
24 higher learning in which flight train-
25 ing is required to earn the degree

1 being pursued (including with respect
2 to a dual major, concentration, or
3 other element of such a degree).”.

4 (b) CERTAIN PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION CARRIED
5 OUT UNDER CONTRACT.—Section 3313(c)(1)(A)(ii)(II) of
6 title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection
7 (a)(2)(E), is amended by adding at the end the following
8 new item:

9 “(cc) A program of education
10 pursued at a public institution of
11 higher learning in which the public in-
12 stitution of higher learning enters into
13 a contract or agreement with an enti-
14 ty (other than another public institu-
15 tion of higher learning) to provide
16 such program of education or a por-
17 tion of such program of education.”.

18 (c) APPLICATION.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by para-
20 graph (2), the amendments made by subsection (a)
21 and (b) shall apply with respect to a quarter, semes-
22 ter, or term, as applicable, commencing on or after
23 the date of the enactment of this Act.

24 (2) SPECIAL RULE FOR CURRENT STUDENTS.—

25 In the case of an individual who, as of the date of

1 the enactment of this Act, is using educational as-
2 sistance under chapter 33 of title 38, United States
3 Code, to pursue a course of education that includes
4 a program of education described in item (bb) or
5 (cc) of section 3313(c)(1)(A)(ii)(II) of title 38,
6 United States Code, as added by subsections (a) and
7 (b), respectively, the amendment made by such sub-
8 section shall apply with respect to a quarter, semes-
9 ter, or term, as applicable, commencing on or after
10 the date that is two years after the date of the en-
11 actment of this Act.

12 **SEC. 307. CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN TIME SPENT RE-**
13 **CEIVING MEDICAL CARE FROM SECRETARY**
14 **OF DEFENSE AS ACTIVE DUTY FOR PUR-**
15 **POSES OF ELIGIBILITY FOR POST-9/11 EDU-**
16 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE.**

17 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3301(1)(B) of title 38,
18 United States Code, is amended by inserting “12301(h),”
19 after “12301(g),”.

20 (b) **APPLICATION.**—The amendment made by sub-
21 section (a) shall apply with respect to active duty service
22 by a member of a reserve component covered by section
23 12301(h) of title 10, United States, beginning on or after
24 the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment
25 of this Act.

1 **SEC. 308. WORK-STUDY ALLOWANCE.**

2 Section 3485(a)(4) of title 38, United States Code,
3 is amended by striking “June 30, 2013” each place it ap-
4 pears and inserting “June 30, 2013, or the period begin-
5 ning on June 30, 2016, and ending on June 30, 2021”.

6 **SEC. 309. VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION**

7 **ACTION PLAN.**

8 Not later than 270 days after the date of the enact-
9 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
10 develop and publish an action plan for improving the serv-
11 ices and assistance provided under chapter 31 of title 38,
12 United States Code. Such plan shall include each of the
13 following:

14 (1) A comprehensive analysis of, and rec-
15 ommendations and a proposed implementation plan
16 for remedying workload management challenges at
17 regional offices of the Department of Veterans Af-
18 fairs, including steps to reduce counselor caseloads
19 of veterans participating in a rehabilitation program
20 under such chapter, particularly for counselors who
21 are assisting veterans with traumatic brain injury
22 and post-traumatic stress disorder and counselors
23 with educational and vocational counseling work-
24 loads.

25 (2) A comprehensive analysis of the reasons for
26 the disproportionately low percentage of veterans

1 with service-connected disabilities who served in the
2 Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, who opt to
3 participate in a rehabilitation program under such
4 chapter relative to the percentage of such veterans
5 who use their entitlement to educational assistance
6 under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, in-
7 cluding an analysis of barriers to timely enrollment
8 in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of such
9 title and of any barriers to a veteran enrolling in the
10 program of that veteran's choice.

11 (3) Recommendations and a proposed imple-
12 mentation plan for encouraging more veterans with
13 service-connected disabilities who served in the
14 Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, to partici-
15 pate in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of
16 such title.

17 (4) A national staff training program for voca-
18 tional rehabilitation counselors of the Department
19 that includes the provision of—

20 (A) training to assist counselors in under-
21 standing the very profound disorientation expe-
22 rienced by warriors whose lives and life-plans
23 have been upended and out of their control be-
24 cause of their injury;

1 (B) training to assist counselors in work-
2 ing in partnership with veterans on individual
3 rehabilitation plans; and

4 (C) training on post-traumatic stress dis-
5 order and other mental health conditions and
6 on moderate to severe traumatic brain injury
7 that is designed to improve the ability of such
8 counselors to assist veterans with these condi-
9 tions, including by providing information on the
10 broad spectrum of such conditions and the ef-
11 fect of such conditions on an individual's abili-
12 ties and functional limitations.

13 **SEC. 310. REDUCTION IN REDUNDANCY AND INEFFICIEN-**
14 **CIES IN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**
15 **CLAIMS PROCESSING.**

16 (a) VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION CLAIMS.—The
17 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall reduce redundancy and
18 inefficiencies in the use of information technology to proc-
19 ess claims for rehabilitation programs under chapter 31
20 of title 38, United States Code, by—

21 (1) ensuring that all payments for and on be-
22 half of veterans participating in a rehabilitation pro-
23 gram under such chapter are only processed and
24 paid out of one corporate information technology

1 system, in order to eliminate the redundancy of mul-
2 tiple information technology payment systems; and

3 (2) enhancing the information technology sys-
4 tem supporting veterans participating in such a pro-
5 gram to support more accurate accounting of serv-
6 ices and outcomes for such veterans.

7 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
8 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans
9 Affairs for fiscal year 2016 \$10,000,000 to carry out this
10 section.

11 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
12 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans
13 Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the changes
14 made pursuant to subsection (a).

15 **TITLE IV—ADMINISTRATION OF**
16 **EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**

17 **SEC. 401. CENTRALIZED REPORTING OF VETERAN ENROLL-**
18 **MENT BY CERTAIN GROUPS, DISTRICTS, AND**
19 **CONSORTIUMS OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITU-**
20 **TIONS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3684(a) of title 38,
22 United States Code, is amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “32, 33,”
24 after “31,”; and

1 (2) by adding at the end the following new
2 paragraph:

3 “(4) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘edu-
4 cational institution’ may include a group, district, or con-
5 sortium of separately accredited educational institutions
6 located in the same State that are organized in a manner
7 that facilitates the centralized reporting of the enrollments
8 in such group, district, or consortium of institutions.”.

9 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
10 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to reports sub-
11 mitted on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

12 **SEC. 402. PROVISION OF INFORMATION REGARDING VET-**
13 **ERAN ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL AS-**
14 **SISTANCE.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 36 of
16 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
17 end the following new section:

18 **“§ 3699. Provision of certain information to edu-**
19 **ca-tional institutions**

20 “For each veteran or other individual pursuing a
21 course of education that has been approved under this
22 chapter using educational assistance to which the veteran
23 or other individual is entitled under chapter 30, 32, 33,
24 or 35 of this title, the Secretary shall make available to
25 the educational institution offering the course information

1 about the amount of such educational assistance to which
2 the veteran or other individual is entitled. Such informa-
3 tion shall be provided to such educational institution
4 through a secure information technology system accessible
5 by the educational institution and shall be regularly up-
6 dated to reflect any amounts used by the veteran or other
7 individual.”.

8 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
9 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
10 after the item relating to section 3698 the following new
11 item:

“3699. Provision of certain information to educational institutions.”.

12 **SEC. 403. ROLE OF STATE APPROVING AGENCIES.**

13 (a) APPROVAL OF CERTAIN COURSES.—Section
14 3672(b)(2)(A) of title 38, United States Code, is amended
15 by striking “the following” and all that follows through
16 the colon and inserting the following: “a program of edu-
17 cation is deemed to be approved for purposes of this chap-
18 ter if a State approving agency determines that the pro-
19 gram is one of the following programs:”.

20 (b) APPROVAL OF OTHER COURSES.—Section 3675
21 of such title is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

23 (A) by striking “The Secretary or a State
24 approving agency” and inserting “A State ap-

1 proving agency, or the Secretary when acting in
2 the role of a State approving agency,”; and

3 (B) by striking “offered by proprietary for-
4 profit educational institutions” and inserting
5 “not covered by section 3672 of this title”; and

6 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “the Secretary
7 or the State approving agency” each place it appears
8 and inserting “the State approving agency, or the
9 Secretary when acting in the role of a State approv-
10 ing agency,”.

11 **SEC. 404. CRITERIA USED TO APPROVE COURSES.**

12 (a) NONACCREDITED COURSES.—Section
13 3676(c)(14) of title 38, United States Code, is amended
14 by inserting before the period the following: “if the Sec-
15 retary, in consultation with the State approving agency
16 and pursuant to regulations prescribed to carry out this
17 paragraph, determines such criteria are necessary and
18 treat public, private, and proprietary for-profit educational
19 institutions equitably”.

20 (b) ACCREDITED COURSES.—Section 3675(b)(3) of
21 such title is amended by striking “and (3)” and inserting
22 “(3), and (14)”.

23 (c) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by sub-
24 section (a) shall apply with respect to—

1 (1) criteria developed pursuant to paragraph
2 (14) of subsection (c) of section 3676 of title 38,
3 United States Code, on or after January 1, 2013;
4 and

5 (2) an investigation conducted under such sub-
6 section that is covered by a reimbursement of ex-
7 penses paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to
8 a State pursuant to section 3674 of such title on or
9 after October 1, 2015.

10 **SEC. 405. COMPLIANCE SURVEYS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3693 of such title is
12 amended—

13 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
14 following new subsection (a):

15 “(a)(1) Except as provided in subsection (b), the Sec-
16 retary shall conduct an annual compliance survey of edu-
17 cational institutions and training establishments offering
18 one or more courses approved for the enrollment of eligible
19 veterans or persons if at least 20 such veterans or persons
20 are enrolled in any such course. The Secretary shall—

21 “(A) design the compliance surveys to ensure
22 that such institutions or establishments, as the case
23 may be, and approved courses are in compliance
24 with all applicable provisions of chapters 30 through
25 36 of this title;

1 “(B) survey each such educational institution
2 and training establishment not less than once during
3 every two-year period; and

4 “(C) assign not fewer than one education com-
5 pliance specialist to work on compliance surveys in
6 any year for each 40 compliance surveys required to
7 be made under this section for such year.

8 “(2) The Secretary, in consultation with the State ap-
9 proving agencies, shall—

10 “(A) annually determine the parameters of the
11 surveys required under paragraph (1); and

12 “(B) not later than September 1 of each year,
13 make available to the State approving agencies a list
14 of the educational institutions and training estab-
15 lishments that will be surveyed during the fiscal year
16 following the date of making such list available.”;
17 and

18 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
19 section:

20 “(c) In this section, the terms ‘educational institu-
21 tion’ and ‘training establishment’ have the meaning given
22 such terms in section 3452 of this title.”.

23 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (b) of
24 such section is amended—

1 (1) by striking “subsection (a) of this section
2 for an annual compliance survey” and inserting
3 “subsection (a)(1) for a compliance survey”;

4 (2) by striking “institution” and inserting
5 “educational institution or training establishment”;
6 and

7 (3) by striking “institution’s demonstrated
8 record of compliance” and inserting “record of com-
9 pliance of such institution or establishment”.

10 **SEC. 406. SURVEY OF INDIVIDUALS USING THEIR ENTITLE-**
11 **MENT TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE UNDER**
12 **THE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**
13 **ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY OF VET-**
14 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

15 (a) SURVEY REQUIRED.—By not later than 270 days
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
17 of Veterans Affairs shall enter into a contract with a non-
18 government entity for the conduct of a survey of a statis-
19 tically valid sample of individuals who have used or are
20 using their entitlement to educational assistance under
21 chapters 30, 32, 33, and 35 of title 38, United States
22 Code, to pursue a program of education or training. The
23 contract shall provide that—

24 (1) not later than one month before the collec-
25 tion of data under the survey begins, the survey

1 shall be submitted to the Committees on Veterans'
2 Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives;

3 (2) the non-government entity shall complete
4 the survey and submit to the Secretary the results
5 of the survey by not later than 180 days after enter-
6 ing into the contract; and

7 (3) the survey shall be conducted by electronic
8 means and by any other means the non-government
9 entity determines appropriate.

10 (b) INFORMATION TO BE COLLECTED.—The con-
11 tract under subsection (a) shall provide that the survey
12 shall be designed to collect the following types of informa-
13 tion about each individual surveyed, where applicable:

14 (1) Demographic information, including the
15 highest level of education completed by the indi-
16 vidual, the military occupational specialty or special-
17 ties of the individual while serving on active duty as
18 a member of the Armed Forces or as a member of
19 the National Guard or of a Reserve Component of
20 the Armed Forces, and whether the individual has a
21 service-connected disability.

22 (2) The opinion of the individual regarding par-
23 ticipation in the transition assistance program under
24 section 1144 of title 10, United States Code, and
25 the effectiveness of the program, including instruc-

1 tion on the use of the benefits under laws adminis-
2 tered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

3 (3) The resources the individual used to help
4 the individual—

5 (A) decide to use the individual's entitle-
6 ment to educational assistance to enroll in a
7 program of education or training; and

8 (B) choose the program of education or
9 training the individual pursued.

10 (4) The individual's goal when the individual
11 enrolled in the program of education or training.

12 (5) The nature of the individual's experience
13 with the education benefits processing system of the
14 Department of Veterans Affairs.

15 (6) The nature of the individual's experience
16 with the school certifying official of the educational
17 institution where the individual pursued the program
18 of education or training who processed the individ-
19 ual's claim.

20 (7) Any services or benefits the educational in-
21 stitution or program of education or training pro-
22 vided to veterans while the individual pursued the
23 program of education or training.

1 (8) The type of educational institution at which
2 the individual pursued the program of education or
3 training.

4 (9) Whether the individual completed the pro-
5 gram of education or training or the number of cred-
6 it hours completed by the individual as of the time
7 of the survey, and, if applicable, any degree or cer-
8 tificate obtained by the individual for completing the
9 program.

10 (10) The employment status of the individual
11 and whether such employment status differs from
12 the employment status of the individual prior to en-
13 rolling in the program of education or training.

14 (11) Whether the individual is or was enrolled
15 in a program of education on a full-time or part-
16 time basis.

17 (12) The opinion of the individual on the effec-
18 tiveness of the educational assistance program of the
19 Department of Veterans Affairs under which the in-
20 dividual was entitled to educational assistance.

21 (13) Whether the individual was ever entitled to
22 a rehabilitation under chapter 31 of title 38, United
23 States Code, and whether the individual participated
24 in such a program.

1 to the maximum extent possible, make such changes and
2 improvements to the information technology system of the
3 Veterans Benefits Administration of the Department of
4 Veterans Affairs to ensure that—

5 (1) to the maximum extent possible, all original
6 and supplemental claims for educational assistance
7 under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code,
8 are adjudicated electronically; and

9 (2) rules-based processing is used to make deci-
10 sions with respect to such claims with little human
11 intervention.

12 (b) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180
13 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
14 retary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a plan
15 to implement the changes and improvements described in
16 subsection (a).

17 (c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
18 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans
19 Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the implemen-
20 tation of the changes and improvements described in sub-
21 section (a).

22 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
23 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans
24 Affairs \$30,000,000 to carry out this section during fiscal
25 years 2016 and 2017.

1 **SEC. 408. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT RELATING TO IN-STATE**
2 **TUITION RATE FOR INDIVIDUALS TO WHOM**
3 **ENTITLEMENT IS TRANSFERRED UNDER ALL-**
4 **VOLUNTEER FORCE EDUCATIONAL ASSIST-**
5 **ANCE PROGRAM AND POST-9/11 EDU-**
6 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE.**

7 (a) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section
8 3679(c)(2)(B) of title 38, United States Code, is amended
9 by striking “or 3319 of this title” and all that follows and
10 inserting “of this title or to whom educational assistance
11 is transferred under section 3319 of this title.”.

12 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by sub-
13 section (a) shall apply with respect to a course, semester,
14 or term that begins after July 1, 2016.

15 **TITLE V—OTHER MATTERS**

16 **SEC. 501. AMOUNT OF LOAN GUARANTEED UNDER HOME**
17 **LOAN PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
18 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

19 (a) ADJUSTMENT OF LOAN LIMIT.—Section
20 3703(a)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

21 (1) in subparagraph (A)(i)(IV)—

22 (A) by striking “the lesser of”; and

23 (B) by striking “or 25 percent of the
24 loan”; and

1 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “Freddie
2 Mac” and all that follows through the period at the
3 end and inserting “amount of the loan.”.

4 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
5 this section shall apply with respect to a loan guaranteed
6 under section 3710 of title 38, United States Code, on
7 or after the date that is 30 days after the date of the
8 enactment of this Act.

9 **SEC. 502. LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF JOB COUNSELING,**
10 **TRAINING, AND PLACEMENT SERVICE FOR**
11 **VETERANS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 41 of title 38, United
13 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
14 lowing new section:

15 **“§ 4115. Longitudinal study of job counseling, train-**
16 **ing, and placement service for veterans**

17 “(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—(1) The Secretary shall
18 enter into a contract with a non-government entity to con-
19 duct a longitudinal study of a statistically valid sample
20 of each of the groups of individuals described in paragraph
21 (2). The contract shall provide for the study of each such
22 group over a period of at least five years.

23 “(2) The groups of individuals described in this para-
24 graph are the following:

1 “(A) Veterans who have received intensive serv-
2 ices.

3 “(B) Veterans who did not receive intensive
4 services but who otherwise received services under
5 this chapter.

6 “(C) Veterans who did not seek or receive serv-
7 ices under this chapter.

8 “(3) The study required by this subsection shall in-
9 clude the collection of the following information for each
10 individual who participates in the study:

11 “(A) The average number of months such indi-
12 vidual served on active duty.

13 “(B) The distribution of disability ratings of
14 such individual.

15 “(C) Any unemployment benefits received by
16 such individual.

17 “(D) The average number of months such indi-
18 vidual was employed during the year covered by the
19 report.

20 “(E) The average annual starting and ending
21 salaries of any such individual who was employed
22 during the year covered by the report.

23 “(F) The average annual income of such indi-
24 vidual.

1 “(G) The average total household income of
2 such individual for the year covered by the report.

3 “(H) The percentage of such individuals who
4 own their principal residences.

5 “(I) The employment status of such individual.

6 “(J) In the case of such an individual who re-
7 ceived services under this chapter, whether the indi-
8 vidual believes that any service provided by a dis-
9 abled veterans’ outreach specialist or local veterans’
10 employment representative helped the individual to
11 become employed.

12 “(K) In the case of such an individual who be-
13 lieves such a service helped the individual to become
14 employed, whether—

15 “(i) the individual retained the position of
16 employment for a period of one year or longer;
17 and

18 “(ii) the individual believes such a service
19 helped the individual to secure a higher wage or
20 salary.

21 “(L) The conditions under which such indi-
22 vidual was discharged or released from the Armed
23 Forces.

1 “(M) Whether such individual has used any
2 educational assistance to which the individual is en-
3 titled under this title.

4 “(N) Whether such individual has participated
5 in a rehabilitation program under chapter 31 of this
6 title.

7 “(O) Demographic information about such indi-
8 vidual.

9 “(P) Such other information as the Secretary
10 determines appropriate.

11 “(b) ANNUAL REPORTS.—(1) By not later than July
12 1 of each year covered by the study required under sub-
13 section (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees
14 on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Rep-
15 resentatives a report on the outcomes of the study during
16 the preceding year.

17 “(2) The Secretary shall include in each annual re-
18 port submitted under paragraph (1) any information the
19 Secretary determines is necessary to determine the long-
20 term outcomes of the individuals in the groups described
21 in subsection (a)(2).”.

22 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
23 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
24 at the end the following new item:

 “4115. Longitudinal study of job counseling, training, and placement service for
 veterans.”.

1 **SEC. 503. LIMITATIONS ON SUBCONTRACTS UNDER CON-**
2 **TRACTS WITH SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS**
3 **OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY VETERANS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8127 of title 38, United
5 States Code, is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating subsection (l) as subsection
7 (m); and

8 (2) by inserting after subsection (k) the fol-
9 lowing new subsection (l):

10 “(l) LIMITATIONS ON SUBCONTRACTING.—(1)(A)
11 The requirements applicable to a covered small business
12 concern under section 46 of the Small Business Act (15
13 U.S.C. 657s) shall apply with respect to a small business
14 concern owned and controlled by a veteran with a service-
15 connected disability or a small business concern owned
16 and controlled by a veteran that is awarded a contract
17 that is counted for purposes of meeting the goals under
18 subsection (a).

19 “(B) For purposes of applying the requirements of
20 section 46 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657s)
21 pursuant to subparagraph (A), the term ‘similarly situated
22 entity’ used in such section 46 includes a subcontractor
23 for a small business concern owned and controlled by a
24 veteran with a service-connected disability or a small busi-
25 ness concern owned and controlled by a veteran described
26 in such subparagraph (A).

1 “(2) Before awarding a contract that is counted for
2 purposes of meeting the goals under subsection (a), the
3 Secretary shall obtain from an offeror a certification that
4 the offeror will comply with the requirements described in
5 paragraph (1)(A) if awarded the contract. Such certifi-
6 cation shall—

7 “(A) specify the exact performance require-
8 ments applicable under such paragraph; and

9 “(B) explicitly acknowledge that the certifi-
10 cation is subject to section 1001 of title 18.

11 “(3) If the Secretary determines that a small busi-
12 ness concern that is awarded a contract that is counted
13 for purposes of meeting the goals under subsection (a) did
14 not act in good faith with respect to the requirements de-
15 scribed in paragraph (1)(A), the small business concern
16 shall be subject to the penalties specified in—

17 “(A) section 16(g)(1) of the Small Business Act
18 (15 U.S.C. 645(g)(1)); and

19 “(B) section 1001 of title 18.

20 “(4)(A) The Director of Small and Disadvantaged
21 Business Utilization for the Department, established pur-
22 suant to section 15(k) of the Small Business Act (15
23 U.S.C. 644(k)), and the Chief Acquisition Officer of the
24 Department, established pursuant to section 1702 of title
25 41, shall jointly implement a process using the systems

1 described in section 16(g)(2) of the Small Business Act
2 (15 U.S.C. 645(g)(2)), or any other systems available, to
3 monitor compliance with this subsection. The Chief Acqui-
4 sition Officer shall refer any violations of this subsection
5 to the Inspector General of the Department.

6 “(B) Not later than November 30 of each year, the
7 Inspector General shall submit to the Committees on Vet-
8 erans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives
9 a report for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year during
10 which the report is submitted that includes, for the fiscal
11 year covered by the report—

12 “(i) the number of referred violations received
13 under subparagraph (A); and

14 “(ii) the disposition of such referred violations,
15 including the number of small business concerns sus-
16 pended or debarred from Federal contracting or re-
17 ferred to the Attorney General for prosecution.”.

18 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (l) of section
19 8127 of title 38, United States Code, as added by sub-
20 section (a) shall apply with respect to a contract entered
21 into after the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 504. PROCEDURES FOR PROVISION OF CERTAIN IN-**
2 **FORMATION TO STATE VETERANS AGENCIES**
3 **TO FACILITATE THE FURNISHING OF ASSIST-**
4 **ANCE AND BENEFITS TO VETERANS.**

5 (a) PROCEDURES REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Vet-
6 erans Affairs shall develop procedures to share the infor-
7 mation described in subsection (b) regarding veterans with
8 State veterans agencies in electronic data format as a
9 means of facilitating the furnishing of assistance and ben-
10 efits to veterans.

11 (b) COVERED INFORMATION.—The information
12 shared with State veterans agencies under subsection (a)
13 regarding a veteran shall include the following:

- 14 (1) Military service and separation data.
- 15 (2) A personal email address.
- 16 (3) A personal telephone number.
- 17 (4) A mailing address.

18 (c) OPT-OUT ELECTION.—A veteran may elect to
19 prevent their information from being shared with State
20 veterans agencies under subsection (a) pursuant to a proc-
21 ess that the Secretary shall establish for purposes of this
22 subsection.

23 (d) USE OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall en-
24 sure that the information shared with State veterans agen-
25 cies in accordance with the procedures developed under
26 subsection (a) is only shared by such agencies with county

- 1 government veterans service offices for such purposes as
- 2 the Secretary shall specify for the administration and de-
- 3 livery of assistance and benefits.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to health care, educational assistance, and vocational rehabilitation, to establish the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes.”.