

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 980
OFFERED BY MR. VAN ORDEN OF WISCONSIN**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Readiness
3 and Employment Improvement Act of 2025”.

**4 SEC. 2. ELIMINATION OF REQUIREMENT THAT ON-CAMPUS
5 EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL COUN-
6 SELING IS PROVIDED BY CERTAIN DEPART-
7 MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EMPLOYEES.**

8 Section 3697B(a) of title 38, United States Code, is
9 amended by striking the second sentence.

**10 SEC. 3. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
11 TO APPROVE NON-DEGREE FLIGHT TRAINING
12 COURSES AS PART OF VOCATIONAL REHA-
13 BILITATION PROGRAMS FOR CERTAIN VET-
14 ERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABIL-
15 ITIES.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3104(b) of title 38,
17 United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by inserting “(1)” before “A rehabilitation
2 program”;

3 (2) by striking “To the maximum extent prac-
4 ticable” and inserting “Except as provided under
5 paragraph (2), to the maximum extent practicable”;
6 and

7 (3) by adding at the end the following new
8 paragraph:

9 “(2) Notwithstanding section 3680A(b) of this title,
10 the Secretary may approve a rehabilitation program for
11 a veteran under this chapter that includes the pursuit of
12 a course of flight training other than one given by an edu-
13 cational institution of higher learning for credit toward a
14 standard college degree the veteran is seeking.”.

15 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by sub-
16 section (a) shall apply with respect to a rehabilitation pro-
17 gram approved on or after August 1, 2025.

18 **SEC. 4. OUTREACH REQUIREMENTS FOR DEPARTMENT OF**
19 **VETERANS AFFAIRS TRAINING AND REHA-**
20 **BILITATION PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS WITH**
21 **SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.**

22 (a) VRE CONTACT INFORMATION.—Section 3104 of
23 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
24 end the following new subsection:

1 “(f) The Secretary shall establish a dedicated tele-
2 phone number within the Education Call Center of the De-
3 partment for calls about services provided under this chap-
4 ter. Each regional office of the Department shall include,
5 on the website of the regional office, a name, telephone
6 number, and email address, through which veterans may
7 receive information about services provided under this
8 chapter.”.

9 (b) OUTREACH REQUIREMENT.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 31 of title 38,
11 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
12 end the following new section:

13 **“§ 3123. Outreach requirements**

14 “(a) QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSIONS.—The Sec-
15 retary shall provide monthly question and answer sessions
16 for appropriate school certifying officials during which
17 such officials shall have the opportunity to ask questions
18 of Department employees who are veteran readiness and
19 employment counselors or trained outreach specialists.

20 “(b) INFORMATIONAL BRIEFINGS.—(1) The Sec-
21 retary shall ensure that veteran readiness and employment
22 counselors or trained outreach specialists employed by a
23 Regional Office of the Department provide in-person brief-
24 ings for veterans about services provided under this chap-

1 ter at each educational institution located in the geo-
2 graphic area served by the Regional Office.

3 “(2) The Secretary may provide a briefing required
4 under paragraph (1) virtually in the case of an educational
5 institution located more than 50 miles away from the
6 headquarters of the Regional Office.

7 “(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year
8 after the date of the enactment of this section, and annu-
9 ally thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Commit-
10 tees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Rep-
11 resentatives a report on the extension of periods of voca-
12 tional rehabilitation programs under section 3105(c) of
13 this title. Such report shall include, for the year covered
14 by the report—

15 “(1) the number of veterans who requested
16 such an extension;

17 “(2) the number of such requests that were ap-
18 proved; and

19 “(3) the number of such requests that were re-
20 jected.”.

21 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
22 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended
23 by adding at the end the following new item:

“3123. Outreach requirements.”.

24 (d) EXTENSION OF ENTITLEMENTS.—Section
25 3105(c) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as
2 subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

3 (2) by inserting “(1)” before “The Secretary”;
4 and

5 (3) by adding at the end the following new
6 paragraph:

7 “(2) If a veteran applies for an extension under para-
8 graph (1), the Secretary shall approve or reject the exten-
9 sion by not later than 30 days after the date on which
10 the veteran submits a request for the extension.”.

11 **SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF**
12 **PENSION.**

13 Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code,
14 is amended by striking “November 30, 2031” and insert-
15 ing “May 31, 2032”.

