

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 2148
OFFERED BY MR. TAKANO

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Veteran Caregiver Re-
3 education, Reemployment, and Retirement Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF MEDICAL CARE COV-
5 ERAGE FOR CAREGIVERS DESIGNATED AS
6 PRIMARY PROVIDERS OF PERSONAL CARE
7 SERVICES FOR VETERANS.**

8 Section 1781(a)(4) of title 38, United States Code,
9 is amended by inserting before the comma at the end the
10 following: “, including during the 180-day period following
11 discharge from the program under section 1720G(a) of
12 this title unless the designation of the individual was re-
13 voked due to fraud, abuse, mistreatment, or other mis-
14 conduct”.

1 **SEC. 3. EMPLOYMENT AND OTHER BENEFITS FOR CARE-**
2 **GIVERS DESIGNATED AS PRIMARY PRO-**
3 **VIDERS OF PERSONAL CARE SERVICES FOR**
4 **VETERANS.**

5 (a) EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.—Section 1720G of
6 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
7 end the following new subsection:

8 “(e) EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.—(1) The Secretary
9 shall, subject to paragraph (2), provide to an individual
10 designated as a primary provider of personal care services
11 under subsection (a)(7)(A) employment assistance as fol-
12 lows:

13 “(A) Reimbursement of fees associated with
14 certifications or relicensure necessary for such em-
15 ployment.

16 “(B) For purposes of gaining credit for con-
17 tinuing professional education requirements, access
18 to training modules of the Department at no cost.

19 “(C) In consultation with the Secretary of De-
20 fense and the Secretary of Labor, access to existing
21 employment assistance resources and programs as
22 considered appropriate.

23 “(2) An individual described in paragraph (1) shall
24 have access to assistance described in such paragraph—

25 “(A) while participating in the program estab-
26 lished under subsection (a)(1); and

1 “(B) during the 180-day period following the
2 date on which the individual is no longer partici-
3 pating in such program unless the designation of
4 such individual under subsection (a)(7)(A) was re-
5 voked for fraud, abuse, mistreatment, or other mis-
6 conduct.

7 “(3) The maximum lifetime amount that may be re-
8 imbursed for an individual under paragraph (1)(A) is
9 \$1,000.”.

10 (b) EXPANSION OF AVAILABLE SERVICES.—Sub-
11 section (a)(3)(A)(ii) of such section is amended—

12 (1) in subclause (V), by striking “; and” and
13 inserting a semicolon;

14 (2) in subclause (VI)—

15 (A) in the matter preceding item (aa), by
16 inserting “or agreements” after “contracts”;

17 (B) in item (aa), by inserting “, including
18 retirement planning services,” after “services”;

19 and

20 (C) in item (bb), by striking the period at
21 the end and inserting “; and”; and

22 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
23 clause:

24 “(VII) such instruction, preparation, train-
25 ing, and support as the Secretary considers ap-

1 appropriate to assist in transitioning away from
2 caregiving during the 180-day period following
3 the date on which the family caregiver is no
4 longer participating in the program required by
5 paragraph (1), unless such designation was re-
6 voked for fraud, abuse, or mistreatment, or
7 other misconduct.”.

8 (c) ASSISTANCE RETURNING TO WORKFORCE.—Sub-
9 clause (VI) of such subsection is further amended—

10 (1) in item (aa), by striking “; and” and insert-
11 ing a semicolon; and

12 (2) by adding at the end the following new
13 item:

14 “(cc) assistance returning to the
15 workforce upon discharge or dismissal
16 from the program required by paragraph
17 (1) unless such designation was revoked
18 for fraud, abuse, mistreatment, or other
19 misconduct; and”.

20 (d) BEREAVEMENT COUNSELING AND SUPPORT.—

21 Subsection (a)(3)(A)(i)(III) of such section is amended by
22 inserting before the semicolon the following: “, including
23 bereavement counseling and support following the death
24 of the eligible veteran”.

1 (e) STUDY ON PROVISION OF RETURNSHIP PRO-
2 GRAM.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
4 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
5 retary of Veterans Affairs, in partnership with the
6 Secretary of Labor, shall complete a study on the
7 feasibility and advisability of conducting a
8 returnship program to assist individuals who are
9 designated as a primary provider of personal care
10 services under section 1720G(a)(7)(A) of title 38,
11 United States Code, or who were discharged from
12 such program, in returning to the workforce.

13 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after
14 completion of the study under paragraph (1), the
15 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Vet-
16 erans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on
17 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a
18 report on the study.

19 (f) STUDY ON INCORPORATING FORMER CAREGIVERS
20 INTO WORKFORCE OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-
21 FAIRS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
23 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
24 retary of Veterans Affairs shall complete a study on
25 barriers and incentives to hiring individuals who

1 were designated as a primary provider of personal
2 care services under section 1720G(a)(7)(A) of title
3 38, United States Code, at facilities of the Depart-
4 ment of Veterans Affairs to address staffing needs.

5 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after
6 completion of the study under paragraph (1), the
7 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Vet-
8 erans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on
9 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a
10 report on the study, which shall include—

11 (A) a plan for increasing employment op-
12 portunities at facilities of the Department for
13 individuals who were designated as a primary
14 provider of personal care services under section
15 1720G(a)(7)(A) of title 38, United States Code;
16 and

17 (B) such recommendations for legislative
18 or administrative action as the Secretary con-
19 siders appropriate.

20 **SEC. 4. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON EFFORTS OF**
21 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN SUP-**
22 **PORTING FAMILY CAREGIVERS**
23 **TRANSITIONING AWAY FROM CAREGIVING.**

24 Not later than two years after the date of the enact-
25 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United

1 States shall submit to Congress a report assessing the ef-
2 forts of the Department of Veterans Affairs in supporting
3 individuals serving as family caregivers under section
4 1720G(a) of title 38, United States Code, in transitioning
5 away from caregiving, either by assisting those individuals
6 with retirement planning or returning to work.

7 **SEC. 5. REPORT ON FEASIBILITY AND ADVISABILITY OF ES-**
8 **TABLISHING A RETIREMENT PLAN OR RE-**
9 **TIREMENT SAVINGS FOR FAMILY CARE-**
10 **GIVERS OF CERTAIN VETERANS.**

11 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
12 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in con-
13 sultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the heads
14 of such other relevant entities as the Secretary of Veterans
15 Affairs determines necessary, shall submit to Congress a
16 report on the feasibility and advisability of, for individuals
17 serving as family caregivers under section 1720G(a) of
18 title 38, United States Code—

19 (1) establishing an individual retirement plan
20 (as defined in section 7701(a)(37) of the Internal
21 Revenue Code of 1986) or similar retirement plan;
22 or

23 (2) permitting such individuals to join an al-
24 ready established pathway to retirement savings.

1 **SEC. 6. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN HOUSING LOAN FEES.**

2 The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38,
3 United States Code, is amended by striking “June 9,
4 2034” each place it appears and inserting “July 14,
5 2034”.

