

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 2327  
OFFERED BY MR. FLORES OF TEXAS**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Economic  
3 Opportunity Administration Act of 2013”.

4 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPOR-**  
5 **TUNITY ADMINISTRATION OF DEPARTMENT**  
6 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

7 (a) ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ADMINISTRATION.—  
8 Part V of title 38, United States Code, is amended by  
9 adding at the end the following new chapter:

10 **“CHAPTER 80—VETERANS ECONOMIC**  
11 **OPPORTUNITY ADMINISTRATION**

“8001. Organization of Administration.

“8002. Functions of Administration.

12 **“§ 8001. Organization of Administration**

13 “(a) VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ADMINIS-  
14 TRATION.—There is in the Department of Veterans Af-  
15 fairs a Veterans Economic Opportunity Administration.  
16 The primary function of the Veterans Economic Oppor-

1 tunity Administration is the administration of the pro-  
2 grams of the Department which provide assistance related  
3 to economic opportunity to veterans and their dependents  
4 and survivors.

5 “(b) UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC OPPOR-  
6 TUNITY.—The Veterans Economic Opportunity Adminis-  
7 tration is under the Under Secretary for Veterans Eco-  
8 nomic Opportunity, who is directly responsible to the Sec-  
9 retary for the operations of the Administration.

10 **“§ 8002. Functions of Administration**

11 “The Veterans Economic Opportunity Administra-  
12 tion is responsible for the administration of the following  
13 programs of the Department:

14 “(1) Vocational rehabilitation and employment  
15 programs.

16 “(2) Educational assistance programs.

17 “(3) Veterans’ housing loan and related pro-  
18 grams.

19 “(4) The veterans small business program  
20 under section 8127 of this title.”.

21 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The tables of chap-  
22 ters at the beginning of title 38, United States Code, and  
23 of part V of title 38, United States Code, are each amend-  
24 ed by inserting after the item relating to chapter 79 the  
25 following new item:

**“80. Veterans Economic Opportunity Administration ..... 8001”.**

1 **SEC. 3. UNDER SECRETARY FOR VETERANS ECONOMIC OP-**  
2 **PORTUNITY.**

3 (a) UNDER SECRETARY.—Chapter 3 of title 38,  
4 United States Code, is amended by inserting after section  
5 306 the following new section:

6 **“§ 306A. Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Op-**  
7 **portunity**

8 “(a) UNDER SECRETARY.—There is in the Depart-  
9 ment an Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Oppor-  
10 tunity, who is appointed by the President, by and with  
11 the advice and consent of the Senate. The Under Sec-  
12 retary for Veterans Economic Opportunity shall be ap-  
13 pointed without regard to political affiliation or activity  
14 and solely on the basis of demonstrated ability in—

15 “(1) information technology; and

16 “(2) the administration of programs within the  
17 Veterans Economic Opportunity Administration or  
18 programs of similar content and scope.

19 “(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Under Secretary for  
20 Veterans Economic Opportunity is the head of, and is di-  
21 rectly responsible to the Secretary for the operations of,  
22 the Veterans Economic Opportunity Administration.

23 “(c) VACANCIES.—(1) Whenever a vacancy in the po-  
24 sition of Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Oppor-  
25 tunity occurs or is anticipated, the Secretary shall estab-

1 lish a commission to recommend individuals to the Presi-  
2 dent for appointment to the position.

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

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

11 “(B) Two persons representing veterans served  
12 by the Veterans Economic Opportunity Administra-  
13 tion.

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

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

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

22 “(F) One person who has held the position of  
23 Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Oppor-  
24 tunity, if the Secretary determines that it is desir-

1           able for such person to be a member of the commis-  
2           sion.

3           “(3) A commission established under this subsection  
4 shall recommend at least three individuals for appoint-  
5 ment to the position of Under Secretary for Veterans Eco-  
6 nomic Opportunity. The commission shall submit all rec-  
7 ommendations to the Secretary. The Secretary shall for-  
8 ward the recommendations to the President and the Com-  
9 mittees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of  
10 Representatives with any comments the Secretary con-  
11 siders appropriate. Thereafter, the President may request  
12 the commission to recommend additional individuals for  
13 appointment.

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

19           “(d) QUALIFICATIONS OF RECOMMENDED INDIVID-  
20 UALS.—Each individual recommended to the President by  
21 the commission for appointment to the position of Under  
22 Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity shall be an  
23 individual who has held a senior level position in the pri-  
24 vate sector with responsibilities relating to at least one of  
25 the following:

- 1           “(1) Education policy.
- 2           “(2) Vocational rehabilitation.
- 3           “(3) Employment.
- 4           “(4) Home loan finance.
- 5           “(5) Small business development.”.

6           (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
7 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting  
8 after the item relating to section 306 the following new  
9 item:

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

10          (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such title is fur-  
11 ther amended—

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

16           (2) in section 317(d), by inserting after “Under  
17 Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the Under  
18 Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity,”;

19           (3) in section 318(d)(2), by inserting after  
20 “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the  
21 Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Oppor-  
22 tunity,”;

23           (4) in section 516(e)(2)(C), by striking “Health  
24 and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting  
25 “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the

1 Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Oppor-  
2 tunity”;

3 (5) in section 541(a)(2)(B), 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 Oppor-  
7 tunity”;

8 (6) in section 542(a)(2)(B)(iii), by striking  
9 “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and  
10 inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits,  
11 and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Op-  
12 portunity”;

13 (7) in section 544(a)(2)(B)(vi), 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”;

18 (8) in section 709(c)(2)(A), by inserting after  
19 “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the  
20 Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Oppor-  
21 tunity,”.

22 (9) in section 7701(a), by inserting after “as-  
23 sistance” the following: “, other than assistance re-  
24 lated to economic opportunity,”; and

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

4           (d) FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES.—For fiscal year 2014,  
5           the aggregate number of full-time equivalent employees  
6           authorized for the Veterans Benefit Administration and  
7           the Veterans Economic Opportunity Administration, as es-  
8           tablished under chapter 80 of title 38, United States Code,  
9           as added by section 2, may not exceed 20,851.

