

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 2344
OFFERED BY MR. WENSTRUP OF OHIO**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Vocational
3 Rehabilitation and Employment Improvement Act of
4 2015”.

**5 SEC. 2. APPROVAL OF COURSES OF EDUCATION AND
6 TRAINING FOR PURPOSES OF THE VOCA-
7 TIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM OF THE
8 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3104(b) of title 38,
10 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
11 following new sentence: “To the maximum extent prac-
12 ticable, a course of education or training may be pursued
13 by a veteran as part of a rehabilitation program under
14 this chapter only if the course is approved for purposes
15 of chapter 30 or 33 of this title. The Secretary may waive
16 the requirement under the preceding sentence to the ex-
17 tent the Secretary determines appropriate.”.

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

7 **SEC. 3. ELIGIBILITY OF VETERANS ENTITLED TO REHABILI-**
8 **TATION PROGRAM FOR ADAPTIVE HOUSING**
9 **ASSISTANCE.**

10 (a) ADAPTIVE HOUSING AUTHORIZED.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 21 of title 38,
12 United States Code is amended by adding at the end
13 the following new section:

14 **“§ 2110. Adaptation of housing: veterans entitled to**
15 **rehabilitation program**

16 “(a) ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may
17 assist a veteran who is entitled to a rehabilitation program
18 under section 3102 of this title in acquiring such adapta-
19 tions to such veteran’s residence as are determined by the
20 Secretary to be reasonably necessary to accomplish the
21 purposes of such veteran’s rehabilitation program.

22 “(b) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—(1) The assistance
23 authorized by subsection (a) shall be limited to \$70,495.

24 “(2) The amount under paragraph (1) shall be ad-
25 justed under section 2102(e) of this title.

1 “(c) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ADAPTIVE HOUSING
2 ASSISTANCE.— A person who receives adaptive housing
3 assistance under section 2101 or 2102A of this title may
4 not also receive home adaptation services under this sec-
5 tion.”.

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

“2110. Adaptation of housing: veterans eligible for rehabilitation program.”.

9 (3) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Veterans
10 Affairs may provide assistance under section 2110 of
11 title 38, United States Code, as added by paragraph
12 (1), before prescribing final regulations carrying out
13 such section if the Secretary issues notice, proce-
14 dural notice, or administrative notice of the Sec-
15 retary’s decision to provide such assistance that
16 specifies the criteria for the application, approval,
17 and oversight processes the Secretary intends to use
18 in determining how to provide assistance under such
19 section.

20 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such title is fur-
21 ther amended—

22 (1) in section 2101A—

23 (A) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
24 section (d); and

1 (B) by inserting after subsection (b) the
2 following new subsection (c):

3 “(c) EXCEPTION.—This section shall not apply to as-
4 sistance provided under section 2110 of this title.”;

5 (2) in section 2102(e)(1), by inserting after
6 “subsection (d)” the following: “and the amount de-
7 scribed in section 2110(a)(2) of this title”;

8 (3) in section 2106(a), by inserting “section
9 2101 of” before “this chapter”; and

10 (4) in section 3104, by adding at the end the
11 following new subsection:

12 “(c) If the Secretary determines that adaptations to
13 the residence of a veteran entitled to a rehabilitation pro-
14 gram under this chapter are necessary in order to accom-
15 plish the purposes of that rehabilitation program, the Sec-
16 retary may only provide assistance in acquiring such adap-
17 tations under section 2110 of this title.”.

18 **SEC. 4. AUTHORITY TO PRIORITIZE VOCATIONAL REHA-**
19 **BILITATION SERVICES BASED ON NEED.**

20 Section 3104 of title 38, United States Code, as
21 amended by section 3, is further amended by adding at
22 the end the following new subsection:

23 “(c)(1) The Secretary shall have the authority to ad-
24 minister this chapter by prioritizing the provision of serv-
25 ices under this chapter based on need, as determined by

1 the Secretary. In evaluating need for purposes of this sub-
2 section, the Secretary shall consider disability ratings, the
3 severity of employment handicaps, qualification for a pro-
4 gram of independent living, income, and any other factor
5 the Secretary determines appropriate.

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

11 **SEC. 5. REDUCTION IN REDUNDANCY AND INEFFICIENCIES**
12 **IN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION CLAIMS**
13 **PROCESSING.**

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

19 (1) ensuring that all payments for and on be-
20 half of veterans participating in a rehabilitation pro-
21 gram under such chapter are only processed and
22 paid out of one corporate information technology
23 system, in order to eliminate the redundancy of mul-
24 tiple information technology payment systems; and

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

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

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

