

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 5693  
OFFERED BY MR. ROE OF TENNESSEE**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Long-Term Care Vet-  
3 erans Choice Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CONTRACT AU-  
5 THORITY FOR PLACEMENT OF VETERANS IN  
6 NON-DEPARTMENT MEDICAL FOSTER HOMES.**

7 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—Section 1720 of title 38, United  
8 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
9 lowing new subsection:

10 “(h)(1) During the three-year period beginning on  
11 October 1, 2019, and subject to paragraph (2), at the re-  
12 quest of a veteran for whom the Secretary is required to  
13 provide nursing home care under section 1710A of this  
14 title, the Secretary may place the veteran in a medical fos-  
15 ter home that meets Department standards, at the ex-  
16 pense of the United States, pursuant to a contract, agree-  
17 ment, or other arrangement entered into between the Sec-  
18 retary and the medical foster home for such purpose. A

1 veteran who is placed in a medical foster home under this  
2 subsection shall agree, as a condition of such placement,  
3 to accept home health services furnished by the Secretary  
4 under section 1717 of this title.

5 “(2) In any year, not more than a daily average of  
6 900 veterans placed in a medical foster home, whether  
7 placed before or after the date of the enactment of this  
8 subsection, may have their care covered at the expense of  
9 the United States under subsection (a).

10 “(3) In this subsection, the term ‘medical foster  
11 home’ means a home designed to provide non-institutional,  
12 long-term, supportive care for veterans who are unable to  
13 live independently and prefer a family setting.”.

14 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (h) of title 38,  
15 United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take  
16 effect on October 1, 2019.

17 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPOR-**  
18 **TUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.**

19 (a) VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRAN-  
20 SITION ADMINISTRATION.—

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

1 **“CHAPTER 80—VETERANS ECONOMIC OP-**  
2 **PORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMIN-**  
3 **ISTRATION**

“8001. Organization of Administration.

“8002. Functions of Administration.

“8003. Annual report to Congress.

4 **“§ 8001. Organization of Administration**

5 “(a) VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND  
6 TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.—There is in the Depart-  
7 ment of Veterans Affairs a Veterans Economic Oppor-  
8 tunity and Transition Administration. The primary func-  
9 tion of the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transi-  
10 tion Administration is the administration of the programs  
11 of the Department that provide assistance related to eco-  
12 nomic opportunity to veterans and their dependents and  
13 survivors.

14 “(b) UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC OPPOR-  
15 TUNITY AND TRANSITION.—The Veterans Economic Op-  
16 portunity and Transition Administration is under the  
17 Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and  
18 Transition, who is directly responsible to the Secretary for  
19 the operations of the Administration.

20 **“§ 8002. Functions of Administration**

21 “The Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition  
22 Administration is responsible for the administration of the  
23 following programs of the Department:

1           “(1) Vocational rehabilitation and employment  
2           programs.

3           “(2) Educational assistance programs.

4           “(3) Veterans’ housing loan and related pro-  
5           grams.

6           “(4) The verification of small businesses owned  
7           and controlled by veterans pursuant to subsection (f)  
8           of section 8127 of this title, including the adminis-  
9           tration of the database of veteran-owned businesses  
10          described in such subsection.

11          “(5) The Transition Assistance Program under  
12          section 1144 of title 10.

13          “(6) Any other program of the Department  
14          that the Secretary determines appropriate.

15        **“§ 8003. Annual report to Congress**

16          “The Secretary shall include in the annual report to  
17          the Congress required by section 529 of this title a report  
18          on the programs administered by the Under Secretary for  
19          Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition. Each  
20          such report shall include the following with respect to each  
21          such program during the fiscal year covered by that re-  
22          port:

23               “(1) The number of claims received.

24               “(2) The number of claims decided.

25               “(3) The average processing time for a claim.

1 “(4) The number of successful outcomes (as de-  
2 termined by the Secretary).

3 “(5) The number of full-time equivalent em-  
4 ployees.

5 “(6) The amounts expended for information  
6 technology.”.

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, 2019.

15 (c) FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES.—For fiscal years 2019  
16 and 2020, 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 23,692.

22 **SEC. 4. UNDER SECRETARY FOR VETERANS ECONOMIC OP-  
23 PORTUNITY AND TRANSITION.**

24 (a) UNDER SECRETARY.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 38, United  
2           States Code, is amended by inserting after section  
3           306 the following new section:

4   **“§ 306A. Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Op-**  
5                                   **portunity and Transition**

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

14                   “(1) information technology; and

15                   “(2) the administration of programs within the  
16          Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Ad-  
17          ministration or programs of similar content and  
18          scope.

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

24          “(c) VACANCIES.—(1) Whenever a vacancy in the po-  
25          sition of Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Oppor-

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

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

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



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

5           (2) in section 317(d)(2), by inserting after  
6           “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the  
7           Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity  
8           and Transition,”;

9           (3) in section 318(d)(2), by inserting after  
10          “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the  
11          Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity  
12          and Transition,”;

13          (4) in section 516(e)(2)(C), by striking “Health  
14          and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting  
15          “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the  
16          Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity  
17          and Transition”;

18          (5) in section 541(a)(2)(B), by striking “Health  
19          and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting  
20          “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the  
21          Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity  
22          and Transition”;

23          (6) in section 542(a)(2)(B)(iii), by striking  
24          “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and  
25          inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits,

1 and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Op-  
2 portunity and Transition”;

3 (7) in section 544(a)(2)(B)(vi), by striking  
4 “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and  
5 inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits,  
6 and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Op-  
7 portunity and Transition”;

8 (8) in section 709(c)(2)(A), by inserting after  
9 “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the  
10 Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity  
11 and Transition,”;

12 (9) in section 7701(a), by inserting after “as-  
13 sistance” the following: “, other than assistance re-  
14 lated to Economic Opportunity and Transition,”;  
15 and

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

19 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 306A of title 38,  
20 United States Code, as added by subsection (a), and the  
21 amendments made by this section, shall take effect on Oc-  
22 tober 1, 2019.

1 **SEC. 5. LOANS GUARANTEED UNDER HOME LOAN PRO-**  
 2 **GRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**  
 3 **FAIRS.**

4 Section 3729(b)(2)(E) of such title is amended to  
 5 read as follows:

“Type of loan	Active duty veteran	Reservist	Other obli- gator
(E)(i) Interest rate reduction refi- nancing loan (closed before Jan- uary 1, 2019) .....	0.50	0.50	NA
(E)(ii) Interest rate reduction refi- nancing loan (closed on or after January 1, 2019, but before Oc- tober 1, 2024) .....	0.75	0.75	NA
(E)(iii) Interest rate reduction refi- nancing loan (closed on or after October 1, 2024) .....	0.50	0.50	NA”.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts and agreements for the placement of veterans in non-Department medical foster homes for certain veterans who are unable to live independently, to establish the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to amend the interest rate for certain loans guaranteed under the home loan program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.”.

