

In the House of Representatives, U. S.,

May 22, 2006.

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 1235) entitled “An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the availability of \$400,000 in life insurance coverage to servicemembers and veterans, to make a stillborn child an insurable dependent for purposes of the Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance program, to make technical corrections to the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004, to make permanent a pilot program for direct housing loans for Native American veterans, and to require an annual plan on outreach activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs”, do pass with the following

AMENDMENTS:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

1 ***SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.***

2 (a) *SHORT TITLE.*—*This Act may be cited as the “Vet-*
3 *erans’ Housing Opportunity and Benefits Improvement Act*
4 *of 2006”.*

5 (b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—*The table of contents for*
6 *this Act is as follows:*

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—HOUSING MATTERS

- Sec. 101. Adapted housing assistance for disabled veterans residing temporarily in housing owned by family member.*
- Sec. 102. Adjustable rate mortgages.*
- Sec. 103. Permanent authority to make direct housing loans to Native American veterans.*
- Sec. 104. Extension of eligibility for direct loans for Native American veterans to a veteran who is the spouse of a Native American.*
- Sec. 105. Technical corrections to Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004.*

TITLE II—EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

- Sec. 201. Additional duty for the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training to raise awareness of skills of veterans and of the benefits of hiring veterans.*
- Sec. 202. Modifications to the Advisory Committee on Veterans Employment and Training.*
- Sec. 203. Reauthorization of appropriations for homeless veterans reintegration programs.*

TITLE III—LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE MATTERS

- Sec. 301. Duration of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage for totally disabled veterans following separation from service.*
- Sec. 302. Limitation on premium increases for reinstated health insurance of servicemembers released from active military service.*
- Sec. 303. Preservation of employer-sponsored health plan coverage for certain reserve-component members who acquire TRICARE eligibility.*

TITLE IV—OTHER MATTERS

- Sec. 401. Inclusion of additional diseases and conditions in diseases and disabilities presumed to be associated with prisoner of war status.*
- Sec. 402. Consolidation and revision of outreach authorities.*
- Sec. 403. Extension of annual report requirement on equitable relief cases.*

TITLE V—TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

- Sec. 501. Technical and clarifying amendments to new traumatic injury protection coverage under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.*
- Sec. 502. Terminology amendments to revise references to certain veterans in provisions relating to eligibility for compensation or dependency and indemnity compensation.*
- Sec. 503. Technical and clerical amendments.*

1 **TITLE I—HOUSING MATTERS**

2 **SEC. 101. ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR DISABLED**
 3 **VETERANS RESIDING TEMPORARILY IN HOUS-**
 4 **ING OWNED BY A FAMILY MEMBER.**

5 (a) *ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.*—Chapter 21 of title
 6 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after sec-
 7 tion 2102 the following new section:

8 **“§ 2102A. Assistance for veterans residing temporarily**
 9 **in housing owned by a family member**

10 “(a) *PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.*—In the case of a dis-
 11 abled veteran who is described in subsection (a)(2) or (b)(2)
 12 of section 2101 of this title and who is residing, but does
 13 not intend to permanently reside, in a residence owned by
 14 a member of such veteran’s family, the Secretary may assist
 15 the veteran in acquiring such adaptations to such residence
 16 as are determined by the Secretary to be reasonably nec-
 17 essary because of the veteran’s disability.

18 “(b) *AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.*—The assistance author-
 19 ized under subsection (a) may not exceed—

20 “(1) \$14,000, in the case of a veteran described
 21 in section 2101(a)(2) of this title; or

22 “(2) \$2,000, in the case of a veteran described in
 23 section 2101(b)(2) of this title.

1 “(c) *LIMITATION.*—*The assistance authorized by sub-*
 2 *section (a) shall be limited in the case of any veteran to*
 3 *one residence.*

4 “(d) *REGULATIONS.*—*Assistance under this section*
 5 *shall be provided in accordance with such regulations as*
 6 *the Secretary may prescribe.*

7 “(e) *TERMINATION.*—*No assistance may be provided*
 8 *under this section after the end of the five-year period that*
 9 *begins on the date of the enactment of the Veterans’ Housing*
 10 *Opportunity and Benefits Improvement Act of 2006.”.*

11 (b) *LIMITATIONS ON ADAPTED HOUSING ASSIST-*
 12 *ANCE.*—*Section 2102 of such title is amended—*

13 (1) *in the matter in subsection (a) preceding*
 14 *paragraph (1)—*

15 (A) *by striking “shall be limited in the case*
 16 *of any veteran to one housing unit, and nec-*
 17 *essary land therefor, and”;* and

18 (B) *by striking “veteran but shall not ex-*
 19 *ceed \$50,000 in any one case—” and inserting*
 20 *“veteran—”;* and

21 (2) *by adding at the end the following new sub-*
 22 *section:*

23 “(d)(1) *The aggregate amount of assistance available*
 24 *to a veteran under sections 2101(a) and 2102A of this title*
 25 *shall be limited to \$50,000.*

1 “(2) *The aggregate amount of assistance available to*
 2 *a veteran under sections 2101(b) and 2102A of this title*
 3 *shall be limited to \$10,000.*

4 “(3) *No veteran may receive more than three grants*
 5 *of assistance under this chapter.*”.

6 (c) *COORDINATION OF ADMINISTRATION OF BENE-*
 7 *FITS.—Chapter 21 of such title is further amended by add-*
 8 *ing at the end the following new section:*

9 “**§2107. Coordination of administration of benefits**

10 *“The Secretary shall provide for the coordination of*
 11 *the administration of programs to provide specially adapt-*
 12 *ed housing that are administered by the Under Secretary*
 13 *for Health and such programs that are administered by the*
 14 *Under Secretary for Benefits under this chapter, chapter*
 15 *17, and chapter 31 of this title.*”.

16 (d) *CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections at*
 17 *the beginning of such chapter is amended—*

18 (1) *by inserting after the item relating to section*
 19 2102 *the following new item:*

*“2102A. Assistance for veterans residing temporarily in housing owned by a fam-
 ily member.”;*

20 *and*

21 (2) *by adding at the end the following new item:*

“2107. Coordination of administration of benefits.”.

22 (e) *GAO REPORTS.—*

1 (1) *INTERIM REPORT.*—Not later than three
2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
3 Comptroller General shall submit to Congress an in-
4 terim report on the implementation by the Secretary
5 of Veterans Affairs of section 2102A of title 38,
6 United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

7 (2) *FINAL REPORT.*—Not later than five years
8 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Com-
9 ptroller General shall submit to Congress a final report
10 on the implementation of such section.

11 (f) *TEMPORARY INCREASE IN CERTAIN HOUSING LOAN*
12 *FEES.*—For a subsequent loan described in subsection (a)
13 of section 3710 of title 38, United States Code, to purchase
14 or construct a dwelling with 0-down or any other subse-
15 quent loan described in that subsection, other than a loan
16 with 5-down or 10-down, that is closed during fiscal year
17 2007, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall apply section
18 3729(b)(2) of such title by substituting “3.35” for “3.30”.

19 **SEC. 102. ADJUSTABLE RATE MORTGAGES.**

20 Section 3707A(c)(4) of title 38, United States Code,
21 is amended by striking “1 percentage point” and inserting
22 “such percentage points as the Secretary may prescribe”.

1 **SEC. 103. PERMANENT AUTHORITY TO MAKE DIRECT HOUS-**
2 **ING LOANS TO NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS.**

3 (a) *PERMANENT AUTHORITY.*—Section 3761 of title
4 38, United States Code, is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)—

6 (A) by striking “establish and implement a
7 pilot program under which the Secretary may”
8 in the first sentence; and

9 (B) by striking “shall establish and imple-
10 ment the pilot program” in the third sentence
11 and inserting “shall make such loans”;

12 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “In carrying
13 out the pilot program under this subchapter, the” and
14 inserting “The”; and

15 (3) by striking subsection (c).

16 (b) *REPORTS.*—Section 3762(j) of such title is amend-
17 ed to read as follows:

18 “(j) The Secretary shall include as part of the annual
19 benefits report of the Veterans Benefits Administration in-
20 formation concerning the cost and number of loans provided
21 under this subchapter for the fiscal year covered by the re-
22 port.”.

23 (c) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.*—

24 (1) *SECTION 3762.*—Section 3762 of such title is
25 amended—

1 (A) in subsection (a), by inserting “under
2 this subchapter” after “to a Native American
3 veteran”;

4 (B) in subsection (b)(1)(E), by striking “the
5 pilot program established under this subchapter
6 is implemented” and inserting “loans under this
7 subchapter are made”;

8 (C) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking
9 “carry out the pilot program under this sub-
10 chapter in a manner that demonstrates the ad-
11 visability of making direct housing loans” in the
12 second sentence and inserting “make direct hous-
13 ing loans under this subchapter”;

14 (D) in subsection (i)—

15 (i) by striking “the pilot program pro-
16 vided for under this subchapter and” in
17 paragraph (1);

18 (ii) by striking “under the pilot pro-
19 gram and in assisting such organizations
20 and veterans in participating in the pilot
21 program” in paragraph (2)(A) and insert-
22 ing “under this subchapter and in assisting
23 such organizations and veterans with re-
24 spect to such housing benefits”; and

1 (iii) by striking “in participating in
2 the pilot program” in paragraph (2)(E)
3 and inserting “with respect to such bene-
4 fits”.

5 (2) *CONFORMING REPEAL.*—Section 8(b) of the
6 *Veterans Home Loan Program Amendments of 1992*
7 *(Public Law 102–547; 38 U.S.C. 3761 note)* is re-
8 pealed.

9 (d) *ESTABLISHMENT OF MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF*
10 *LOANS.*—Section 3762(c)(1)(B) of title 38, *United States*
11 *Code, is amended—*

12 (1) by striking “(B) The” and inserting “(B)(i)
13 Subject to clause (ii), the”; and

14 (2) by adding at the end the following new
15 clause:

16 “(ii) The amount of a loan made by the Secretary
17 under this subchapter may not exceed the maximum loan
18 amount authorized for loans guaranteed under section
19 3703(a)(1)(C) of this title.”.

20 (e) *TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.*—Subsection (c)(1)(A) of
21 section 3762 of such title is amended by inserting “veteran”
22 after “Native American”.

23 (f) *CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.*—

1 (1) *SUBCHAPTER HEADING.*—*The heading for*
 2 *subchapter V of chapter 37 of such title is amended*
 3 *to read as follows:*

4 “*SUBCHAPTER V—DIRECT HOUSING LOANS FOR*
 5 *NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS*”.

6 (2) *SECTION HEADING.*—*The heading for section*
 7 *3761 of such title is amended to read as follows:*

8 “**§ 3761. Direct housing loans to Native American vet-**
 9 **erans; program authority**”.

10 (3) *SECTION HEADING.*—*The heading for section*
 11 *3762 of such title is amended to read as follows:*

12 “**§ 3762. Direct housing loans to Native American vet-**
 13 **erans; program administration**”.

14 (4) *TABLE OF SECTIONS.*—*The table of sections*
 15 *at the beginning of chapter 37 of such title is amend-*
 16 *ed by striking the items relating to subchapter V and*
 17 *sections 3761 and 3762 and inserting the following*
 18 *new items:*

“*SUBCHAPTER V—DIRECT HOUSING LOANS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS*

“*3761. Direct housing loans to Native American veterans; program authority.*

“*3762. Direct housing loans to Native American veterans; program administra-*
tion.”.

1 **SEC. 104. EXTENSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR DIRECT LOANS**
2 **FOR NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS TO A VET-**
3 **ERAN WHO IS THE SPOUSE OF A NATIVE**
4 **AMERICAN.**

5 (a) *EXTENSION.*—Subchapter V of chapter 37 of title
6 38, United States Code, is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating section 3764 as section
8 3765; and

9 (2) by inserting after section 3763 the following
10 new section:

11 **“§3764. Qualified non-Native American veterans**

12 “(a) *TREATMENT OF NON-NATIVE AMERICAN VET-*
13 *ERANS.*—Subject to the succeeding provisions of this section,
14 for purposes of this subchapter—

15 “(1) a qualified non-Native American veteran is
16 deemed to be a Native American veteran; and

17 “(2) for purposes of applicability to a non-Na-
18 tive American veteran, any reference in this sub-
19 chapter to the jurisdiction of a tribal organization
20 over a Native American veteran is deemed to be a ref-
21 erence to jurisdiction of a tribal organization over the
22 Native American spouse of the qualified non-Native
23 American veteran.

24 “(b) *USE OF LOAN.*—In making direct loans under
25 this subchapter to a qualified non-Native American veteran
26 by reason of eligibility under subsection (a), the Secretary

1 *shall ensure that the tribal organization permits, and the*
 2 *qualified non-Native American veteran actually holds, pos-*
 3 *sesses, or purchases, using the proceeds of the loan, jointly*
 4 *with the Native American spouse of the qualified non-Na-*
 5 *tive American veteran, a meaningful interest in the lot,*
 6 *dwelling, or both, that is located on trust land.*

7 “(c) *RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY TRIBAL ORGANIZA-*
 8 *TIONS.—Nothing in subsection (b) shall be construed as pre-*
 9 *cluding a tribal organization from imposing reasonable re-*
 10 *strictions on the right of the qualified non-Native American*
 11 *veteran to convey, assign, or otherwise dispose of such inter-*
 12 *est in the lot or dwelling, or both, if such restrictions are*
 13 *designed to ensure the continuation in trust status of the*
 14 *lot or dwelling, or both. Such requirements may include the*
 15 *termination of the interest of the qualified non-Native*
 16 *American veteran in the lot or dwelling, or both, upon the*
 17 *dissolution of the marriage of the qualified non-Native*
 18 *American veteran to the Native American spouse.”.*

19 “(b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 3765 of such*
 20 *title, as redesignated by subsection (a)(1), is amended by*
 21 *adding at the end the following new paragraph:*

22 “(5) *The term ‘qualified non-Native American*
 23 *veteran’ means a veteran who—*

24 “(A) *is the spouse of a Native American,*
 25 *but*

1 “(B) is not a Native American.”.

2 (c) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—*The table of sections at*
 3 *the beginning of chapter 37 of such title is amended by*
 4 *striking the item relating to section 3764 and inserting the*
 5 *following new items:*

 “3764. *Qualified non-Native American veterans.*

 “3765. *Definitions.*”.

6 **SEC. 105. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO VETERANS BENE-**
 7 **FITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2004.**

8 (a) *CORRECTIONS.*—*Section 2101 of title 38, United*
 9 *States Code, as amended by section 401 of the Veterans Ben-*
 10 *efits Improvement Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–454; 118*
 11 *Stat. 3614), is amended—*

12 (1) *by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection*
 13 *(d);*

14 (2) *by inserting after subsection (b) a new sub-*
 15 *section (c) consisting of the text of subsection (c) of*
 16 *such section 2101 as in effect immediately before the*
 17 *enactment of such Act, modified—*

18 (A) *in paragraph (1)—*

19 (i) *in the first sentence, by striking*
 20 *“paragraph (1), (2), or (3)” and inserting*
 21 *“subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of*
 22 *paragraph (2)”; and*

1 (ii) in the second sentence, by striking
2 “the second sentence” and inserting “para-
3 graph (3)”; and

4 (B) in paragraph (2)—

5 (i) in the first sentence, by striking
6 “paragraph (1)” and inserting “paragraph
7 (2)”; and

8 (ii) in the second sentence, by striking
9 “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraph
10 (3)”; and

11 (3) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “subsection
12 (c)” in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and
13 inserting “subsection (d)”.

14 (b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendments made by sub-
15 section (a) shall take effect as of December 10, 2004, as if
16 enacted immediately after the enactment of the Veterans
17 Benefits Improvement Act of 2004 on that date.

1 **TITLE II—EMPLOYMENT**
 2 **MATTERS**

3 **SEC. 201. ADDITIONAL DUTY FOR THE ASSISTANT SEC-**
 4 **RETARY OF LABOR FOR VETERANS' EMPLOY-**
 5 **MENT AND TRAINING TO RAISE AWARENESS**
 6 **OF SKILLS OF VETERANS AND OF THE BENE-**
 7 **FITS OF HIRING VETERANS.**

8 *Subsection (b) of section 4102A of title 38, United*
 9 *States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following*
 10 *new paragraph:*

11 “(8) *With advice and assistance from the Advi-*
 12 *sory Committee on Veterans Employment and Train-*
 13 *ing, and Employer Outreach established under section*
 14 *4110 of this title, furnish information to employers*
 15 *(through meetings in person with hiring executives of*
 16 *corporations and otherwise) with respect to the train-*
 17 *ing and skills of veterans and disabled veterans, and*
 18 *the advantages afforded employers by hiring veterans*
 19 *with such training and skills, and to facilitate em-*
 20 *ployment of veterans and disabled veterans through*
 21 *participation in labor exchanges (Internet-based and*
 22 *otherwise), and other means.”.*

23 **SEC. 202. MODIFICATIONS TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
 24 **ON VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.**

25 *(a) COMMITTEE NAME.—*

1 (1) *CHANGE OF NAME.*—Subsection (a)(1) of sec-
 2 tion 4110 of title 38, United States Code, is amended
 3 by striking “Advisory Committee on Veterans Em-
 4 ployment and Training” and inserting “Advisory
 5 Committee on Veterans Employment, Training, and
 6 Employer Outreach”.

7 (2) *SECTION HEADING.*—The heading of such sec-
 8 tion is amended to read as follows:

9 **“§4110. Advisory Committee on Veterans Employment,
 10 Training, and Employer Outreach”.**

11 (3) *TABLE OF SECTIONS.*—The item relating to
 12 section 4110 in the table of sections at the beginning
 13 of chapter 41 of such title is amended to read as fol-
 14 lows:

 “4110. Advisory Committee on Veterans Employment, Training, and Employer
 Outreach.”.

15 (4) *REFERENCES.*—Any reference to the Advi-
 16 sory Committee established under section 4110 of such
 17 title in any law, regulation, map, document, record,
 18 or other paper of the United States shall be considered
 19 to be a reference to the Advisory Committee on Vet-
 20 erans Employment, Training, and Employer Out-
 21 reach.

22 (b) *EXPANSION OF DUTIES OF ADVISORY COM-
 23 MITTEE.*—Subsection (a)(2) of such section is amended—

1 (1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “and their
2 integration into the workforce” after “veterans”;

3 (2) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
4 graph (B);

5 (3) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as sub-
6 paragraph (E); and

7 (4) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the fol-
8 lowing new subparagraphs:

9 “(C) assist the Assistant Secretary of Labor for
10 Veterans’ Employment and Training in carrying out
11 outreach activities to employers with respect to the
12 training and skills of veterans and the advantages af-
13 forded employers by hiring veterans;

14 “(D) make recommendations to the Secretary,
15 through the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans’
16 Employment and Training, with respect to outreach
17 activities and the employment and training of vet-
18 erans; and”.

19 (c) *MODIFICATION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEM-*
20 *BERSHIP.—*

21 (1) *MEMBERSHIP.—*Subsection (c)(1) of such sec-
22 tion is amended to read as follows:

23 “(c)(1) The Secretary of Labor shall appoint at least
24 12, but no more than 15, individuals to serve as members
25 of the advisory committee as follows:

1 “(A) *Six individuals, one each from among rep-*
2 *resentatives nominated by each of the following orga-*
3 *nizations:*

4 “(i) *The National Society of Human Re-*
5 *source Managers.*

6 “(ii) *The Business Roundtable.*

7 “(iii) *The National Association of State*
8 *Workforce Agencies.*

9 “(iv) *The United States Chamber of Com-*
10 *merce.*

11 “(v) *The National Federation of Inde-*
12 *pendent Business.*

13 “(vi) *A nationally recognized labor union*
14 *or organization.*

15 “(B) *Not more than five individuals from among*
16 *representatives nominated by veterans service organi-*
17 *zations that have a national employment program.*

18 “(C) *Not more than five individuals who are rec-*
19 *ognized authorities in the fields of business, employ-*
20 *ment, training, rehabilitation, or labor and who are*
21 *not employees of the Department of Labor.”.*

22 (2) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (d)*
23 *of such section is amended—*

24 (A) *by striking paragraphs (3), (4), (8),*
25 *(10), (11), and (12); and*

1 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6),
2 (7), and (9) as paragraphs (3), (4), (5), and (6),
3 respectively.

4 (d) *REINSTATEMENT AND MODIFICATION OF REPORT-*
5 *ING REQUIREMENT.*—Subsection (f)(1) of such section is
6 amended—

7 (1) by striking the first sentence and inserting
8 the following: “Not later than December 31 of each
9 year, the advisory committee shall submit to the Sec-
10 retary and to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of
11 the Senate and House of Representatives a report on
12 the employment and training needs of veterans, with
13 special emphasis on disabled veterans, for the pre-
14 vious fiscal year.”;

15 (2) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “and their
16 integration into the workforce” after “veterans”;

17 (3) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
18 graph (B);

19 (4) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C)
20 as subparagraphs (C) and (F), respectively;

21 (5) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the fol-
22 lowing new subparagraph:

23 “(B) an assessment of the outreach activities car-
24 ried out by the Secretary of Labor to employers with
25 respect to the training and skills of veterans and the

1 *advantages afforded employers by hiring veterans;”;*
 2 *and*

3 *(6) by inserting after subparagraph (C), as so*
 4 *redesignated, the following new subparagraphs:*

5 *“(D) a description of the activities of the advi-*
 6 *sory committee during that fiscal year;*

7 *“(E) a description of activities that the advisory*
 8 *committee proposes to undertake in the succeeding fis-*
 9 *cal year; and”.*

10 **SEC. 203. REAUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR**
 11 **HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PRO-**
 12 **GRAMS.**

13 *Subsection (e)(1) of section 2021 of title 38, United*
 14 *States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following*
 15 *new subparagraph:*

16 *“(F) \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007*
 17 *through 2009.”.*

18 **TITLE III—LIFE AND HEALTH**
 19 **INSURANCE MATTERS**

20 **SEC. 301. DURATION OF SERVICEMEMBERS’ GROUP LIFE IN-**
 21 **SURANCE COVERAGE FOR TOTALLY DIS-**
 22 **ABLED VETERANS FOLLOWING SEPARATION**
 23 **FROM SERVICE.**

24 *(a) SEPARATION OR RELEASE FROM ACTIVE DUTY.—*

1 (1) *EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF COVERAGE.*—
2 *Paragraph (1)(A) of section 1968(a) of title 38,*
3 *United States Code, is amended by striking “shall*
4 *cease” and all that follows and inserting “shall cease*
5 *on the earlier of the following dates (but in no event*
6 *before the end of 120 days after such separation or re-*
7 *lease):*

8 “(i) *The date on which the insured*
9 *ceases to be totally disabled.*

10 “(ii) *The date that is—*

11 “(I) *two years after the date of*
12 *separation or release from such active*
13 *duty or active duty for training, in the*
14 *case of such a separation or release*
15 *during the period beginning on the*
16 *date that is one year before the date of*
17 *the enactment of Veterans’ Housing*
18 *Opportunity and Benefits Improve-*
19 *ment Act of 2006 and ending on Sep-*
20 *tember 30, 2011; and*

21 “(II) *18 months after the date of*
22 *separation or release from such active*
23 *duty or active duty for training, in the*
24 *case of such a separation or release on*
25 *or after October 1, 2011.”.*

1 (2) *TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Paragraph (1)*
2 *of such section is further amended—*

3 (A) *in the matter preceding subparagraph*
4 (A), *by striking “shall cease—” and inserting*
5 *“shall cease as follows:”; and*

6 (B) *in subparagraph (B), by striking “at”*
7 *after “(B)” and inserting “At”.*

8 (b) *SEPARATION OR RELEASE FROM CERTAIN RE-*
9 *SERVE ASSIGNMENTS.—Paragraph (4) of such section is*
10 *amended by striking “shall cease” the second place it ap-*
11 *pears and all that follows and inserting “shall cease on the*
12 *earlier of the following dates (but in no event before the*
13 *end of 120 days after separation or release from such as-*
14 *signment):*

15 (A) *The date on which the insured ceases*
16 *to be totally disabled.*

17 (B) *The date that is—*

18 (i) *two years after the date of separa-*
19 *tion or release from such assignment, in the*
20 *case of such a separation or release during*
21 *the period beginning on the date that is one*
22 *year before the date of the enactment of Vet-*
23 *erans’ Housing Opportunity and Benefits*
24 *Improvement Act of 2006 and ending on*
25 *September 30, 2011; and*

1 “(ii) 18 months after the date of sepa-
 2 ration or release from such assignment, in
 3 the case of such a separation or release on
 4 or after October 1, 2011.”.

5 **SEC. 302. LIMITATION ON PREMIUM INCREASES FOR REIN-**
 6 **STATED HEALTH INSURANCE OF**
 7 **SERVICEMEMBERS RELEASED FROM ACTIVE**
 8 **MILITARY SERVICE.**

9 (a) *PREMIUM PROTECTION.*—Section 704 of the
 10 *Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 594)* is
 11 amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

12 “(e) *LIMITATION ON PREMIUM INCREASES.*—

13 “(1) *PREMIUM PROTECTION.*—The amount of the
 14 premium for health insurance coverage that was ter-
 15 minated by a servicemember and required to be rein-
 16 stated under subsection (a) may not be increased, for
 17 the balance of the period for which coverage would
 18 have been continued had the coverage not been termi-
 19 nated, to an amount greater than the amount charge-
 20 able for such coverage before the termination.

21 “(2) *INCREASES OF GENERAL APPLICABILITY*
 22 *NOT PRECLUDED.*—Paragraph (1) does not prevent
 23 an increase in premium to the extent of any general
 24 increase in the premiums charged by the carrier of
 25 the health care insurance for the same health insur-

1 *ance coverage for persons similarly covered by such*
2 *insurance during the period between the termination*
3 *and the reinstatement.”*

4 ***(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.***—Subsection (b)(3) of
5 *such section is amended by striking “if the” and inserting*
6 *“in a case in which the”.*

7 ***SEC. 303. PRESERVATION OF EMPLOYER-SPONSORED***
8 ***HEALTH PLAN COVERAGE FOR CERTAIN RE-***
9 ***SERVE-COMPONENT MEMBERS WHO ACQUIRE***
10 ***TRICARE ELIGIBILITY.***

11 ***(a) CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE.***—Subsection (a)(1)
12 *of section 4317 of title 38, United States Code, is amended*
13 *by inserting after “by reason of service in the uniformed*
14 *services,” the following: “or such person becomes eligible for*
15 *medical and dental care under chapter 55 of title 10 by*
16 *reason of subsection (d) of section 1074 of that title,”.*

17 ***(b) REINSTATEMENT OF COVERAGE.***—Subsection (b) of
18 *such section is amended—*

19 ***(1) in paragraph (1)—***

20 ***(A) by inserting after “by reason of service***
21 ***in the uniformed services,” the following: “or by***
22 ***reason of the person’s having become eligible for***
23 ***medical and dental care under chapter 55 of title***
24 ***10 by reason of subsection (d) of section 1074 of***
25 ***that title,”; and***

1 (B) by inserting “or eligibility” before the
2 period at the end of the first sentence; and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following new para-
4 graph:

5 “(3) In the case of a person whose coverage under a
6 health plan is terminated by reason of the person having
7 become eligible for medical and dental care under chapter
8 55 of title 10 by reason of subsection (d) of section 1074
9 of that title but who subsequently does not commence a pe-
10 riod of active duty under the order to active duty that estab-
11 lished such eligibility because the order is canceled before
12 such active duty commences, the provisions of paragraph
13 (1) relating to any exclusion or waiting period in connec-
14 tion with the reinstatement of coverage under a health plan
15 shall apply to such person’s continued employment, upon
16 the termination of such eligibility for medical and dental
17 care under chapter 55 of title 10 that is incident to the
18 cancellation of such order, in the same manner as if the
19 person had become reemployed upon such termination of
20 eligibility.”.

1 **TITLE IV—OTHER MATTERS**

2 **SEC. 401. INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL DISEASES AND CON-**
 3 **DITIONS IN DISEASES AND DISABILITIES PRE-**
 4 **SUMED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH PRISONER**
 5 **OF WAR STATUS.**

6 *Section 1112(b)(3) of title 38, United States Code, is*
 7 *amended by adding at the end the following new subpara-*
 8 *graphs:*

9 “(L) *Atherosclerotic heart disease or hypertensive*
 10 *vascular disease (including hypertensive heart dis-*
 11 *ease) and their complications (including myocardial*
 12 *infarction, congestive heart failure and arrhythmia).*

13 “(M) *Stroke and its complications.*”.

14 **SEC. 402. CONSOLIDATION AND REVISION OF OUTREACH**
 15 **AUTHORITIES.**

16 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Part IV of title 38, United States*
 17 *Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new*
 18 *chapter:*

19 **“CHAPTER 63—OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

“ 6301. *Purpose; definitions.*

“ 6302. *Biennial plan.*

“ 6303. *Outreach services.*

“ 6304. *Veterans assistance offices.*

“ 6305. *Outstationing of counseling and outreach personnel.*

“ 6306. *Use of other agencies.*

“ 6307. *Outreach for eligible dependents.*

“ 6308. *Biennial report to Congress.*

20 **“§ 6301. Purpose; definitions**

21 “(a) *PURPOSE.—The Congress declares that—*

1 “(1) the outreach services program authorized by
2 this chapter is for the purpose of ensuring that all
3 veterans (especially those who have been recently dis-
4 charged or released from active military, naval, or air
5 service and those who are eligible for readjustment or
6 other benefits and services under laws administered
7 by the Department) are provided timely and appro-
8 priate assistance to aid and encourage them in apply-
9 ing for and obtaining such benefits and services in
10 order that they may achieve a rapid social and eco-
11 nomic readjustment to civilian life and obtain a high-
12 er standard of living for themselves and their depend-
13 ents; and

14 “(2) the outreach services program authorized by
15 this chapter is for the purpose of charging the Depart-
16 ment with the affirmative duty of seeking out eligible
17 veterans and eligible dependents and providing them
18 with such services.

19 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this chapter—

20 “(1) the term ‘other governmental programs’ in-
21 cludes all programs under State or local laws as well
22 as all programs under Federal law other than those
23 authorized by this title; and

24 “(2) the term ‘eligible dependent’ means a
25 spouse, surviving spouse, child, or dependent parent

1 *of a person who served in the active military, naval,*
2 *or air service.*

3 **“§ 6302. Biennial plan**

4 “(a) *BIENNIAL PLAN REQUIRED.*—*The Secretary*
5 *shall, during the first nine months of every odd-numbered*
6 *year, prepare a biennial plan for the outreach activities of*
7 *the Department for the two-fiscal-year period beginning on*
8 *October 1 of that year.*

9 “(b) *ELEMENTS.*—*Each biennial plan under sub-*
10 *section (a) shall include the following:*

11 “(1) *Plans for efforts to identify eligible veterans*
12 *and eligible dependents who are not enrolled or reg-*
13 *istered with the Department for benefits or services*
14 *under the programs administered by the Secretary.*

15 “(2) *Plans for informing eligible veterans and el-*
16 *igible dependents of modifications of the benefits and*
17 *services under the programs administered by the Sec-*
18 *retary, including eligibility for medical and nursing*
19 *care and services.*

20 “(c) *COORDINATION IN DEVELOPMENT.*—*In developing*
21 *the biennial plan under subsection (a), the Secretary shall*
22 *consult with the following:*

23 “(1) *Directors or other appropriate officials of*
24 *organizations approved by the Secretary under sec-*
25 *tion 5902 of this title.*

1 “(2) *Directors or other appropriate officials of*
2 *State and local education and training programs.*

3 “(3) *Representatives of nongovernmental organi-*
4 *zations that carry out veterans outreach programs.*

5 “(4) *Representatives of State and local veterans*
6 *employment organizations.*

7 “(5) *Other individuals and organizations that*
8 *the Secretary considers appropriate.*

9 **“§ 6303. Outreach services**

10 “(a) *REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE SERVICES.—In car-*
11 *rying out the purposes of this chapter, the Secretary shall*
12 *provide the outreach services specified in subsections (b)*
13 *through (d). In areas where a significant number of eligible*
14 *veterans and eligible dependents speak a language other*
15 *than English as their principal language, such services*
16 *shall, to the maximum feasible extent, be provided in the*
17 *principal language of such persons.*

18 “(b) *INDIVIDUAL NOTICE TO NEW VETERANS.—The*
19 *Secretary shall by letter advise each veteran at the time of*
20 *the veteran’s discharge or release from active military,*
21 *naval, or air service (or as soon as possible after such dis-*
22 *charge or release) of all benefits and services under laws*
23 *administered by the Department for which the veteran may*
24 *be eligible. In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary*
25 *shall ensure, through the use of veteran-student services*

1 *under section 3485 of this title, that contact, in person or*
2 *by telephone, is made with those veterans who, on the basis*
3 *of their military service records, do not have a high school*
4 *education or equivalent at the time of discharge or release.*

5 “(c) *DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION.—(1) The Sec-*
6 *retary—*

7 “(A) *shall distribute full information to eligible*
8 *veterans and eligible dependents regarding all benefits*
9 *and services to which they may be entitled under laws*
10 *administered by the Secretary; and*

11 “(B) *may, to the extent feasible, distribute infor-*
12 *mation on other governmental programs (including*
13 *manpower and training programs) which the Sec-*
14 *retary determines would be beneficial to veterans.*

15 “(2) *Whenever a veteran or dependent first applies for*
16 *any benefit under laws administered by the Secretary (in-*
17 *cluding a request for burial or related benefits or an appli-*
18 *cation for life insurance proceeds), the Secretary shall pro-*
19 *vide to the veteran or dependent information concerning*
20 *benefits and health care services under programs adminis-*
21 *tered by the Secretary. Such information shall be provided*
22 *not later than three months after the date of such applica-*
23 *tion.*

24 “(d) *PROVISION OF AID AND ASSISTANCE.—The Sec-*
25 *retary shall provide, to the maximum extent possible, aid*

1 *and assistance (including personal interviews) to members*
2 *of the Armed Forces, veterans, and eligible dependents with*
3 *respect to subsections (b) and (c) and in the preparation*
4 *and presentation of claims under laws administered by the*
5 *Department.*

6 “(e) *ASSIGNMENT OF EMPLOYEES.—In carrying out*
7 *this section, the Secretary shall assign such employees as*
8 *the Secretary considers appropriate to conduct outreach*
9 *programs and provide outreach services for homeless vet-*
10 *erans. Such outreach services may include site visits*
11 *through which homeless veterans can be identified and pro-*
12 *vided assistance in obtaining benefits and services that may*
13 *be available to them.*

14 **“§ 6304. Veterans assistance offices**

15 “(a) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and*
16 *maintain veterans assistance offices at such places through-*
17 *out the United States and its territories and possessions,*
18 *and in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as the Secretary*
19 *determines to be necessary to carry out the purposes of this*
20 *chapter. The Secretary may maintain such offices on such*
21 *military installations located elsewhere as the Secretary,*
22 *after consultation with the Secretary of Defense and taking*
23 *into account recommendations, if any, of the Secretary of*
24 *Labor, determines to be necessary to carry out such pur-*
25 *poses.*

1 “(b) *LOCATION OF OFFICES.*—*In establishing and*
2 *maintaining such offices, the Secretary shall give due re-*
3 *gard to—*

4 “(1) *the geographical distribution of veterans re-*
5 *cently discharged or released from active military,*
6 *naval, or air service;*

7 “(2) *the special needs of educationally disadvan-*
8 *taged veterans (including their need for accessibility*
9 *of outreach services); and*

10 “(3) *the necessity of providing appropriate out-*
11 *reach services in less populated areas.*

12 **“§ 6305. *Outstationing of counseling and outreach***
13 ***personnel***

14 “*The Secretary may station employees of the Depart-*
15 *ment at locations other than Department offices, including*
16 *educational institutions, to provide—*

17 “(1) *counseling and other assistance regarding*
18 *benefits under this title to veterans and other persons*
19 *eligible for benefits under this title; and*

20 “(2) *outreach services under this chapter.*

21 **“§ 6306. *Use of other agencies***

22 “(a) *In carrying out this chapter, the Secretary shall*
23 *arrange with the Secretary of Labor for the State employ-*
24 *ment service to match the particular qualifications of an*
25 *eligible veteran or eligible dependent with an appropriate*

1 *job or job training opportunity, including, where possible,*
2 *arrangements for outstationing the State employment per-*
3 *sonnel who provide such assistance at appropriate facilities*
4 *of the Department.*

5 “(b) *In carrying out this chapter, the Secretary shall,*
6 *in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, actively seek*
7 *to promote the development and establishment of employ-*
8 *ment opportunities, training opportunities, and other op-*
9 *portunities for veterans, with particular emphasis on the*
10 *needs of veterans with service-connected disabilities and*
11 *other eligible veterans, taking into account applicable rates*
12 *of unemployment and the employment emphases set forth*
13 *in chapter 42 of this title.*

14 “(c) *In carrying out this chapter, the Secretary shall*
15 *cooperate with and use the services of any Federal depart-*
16 *ment or agency or any State or local governmental agency*
17 *or recognized national or other organization.*

18 “(d) *In carrying out this chapter, the Secretary shall,*
19 *where appropriate, make referrals to any Federal depart-*
20 *ment or agency or State or local governmental unit or rec-*
21 *ognized national or other organization.*

22 “(e) *In carrying out this chapter, the Secretary may*
23 *furnish available space and office facilities for the use of*
24 *authorized representatives of such governmental unit or*
25 *other organization providing services.*

1 “(f) *In carrying out this chapter, the Secretary shall*
2 *conduct and provide for studies, in consultation with ap-*
3 *propriate Federal departments and agencies, to determine*
4 *the most effective program design to carry out the purposes*
5 *of this chapter.*

6 **“§ 6307. Outreach for eligible dependents**

7 “(a) *NEEDS OF DEPENDENTS.—In carrying out this*
8 *chapter, the Secretary shall ensure that the needs of eligible*
9 *dependents are fully addressed.*

10 “(b) *INFORMATION AS TO AVAILABILITY OF OUTREACH*
11 *SERVICES FOR DEPENDENTS.—The Secretary shall ensure*
12 *that the availability of outreach services and assistance for*
13 *eligible dependents under this chapter is made known*
14 *through a variety of means, including the Internet, an-*
15 *nouncements in veterans publications, and announcements*
16 *to the media.*

17 **“§ 6308. Biennial report to Congress**

18 “(a) *REPORT REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall, not*
19 *later than December 1 of every even-numbered year (begin-*
20 *ning in 2008), submit to Congress a report on the outreach*
21 *activities carried out by the Department.*

22 “(b) *CONTENT.—Each report under this section shall*
23 *include the following:*

1 “(1) *A description of the implementation during*
2 *the preceding fiscal year of the current biennial plan*
3 *under section 6302 of this title.*

4 “(2) *Recommendations for the improvement or*
5 *more effective administration of the outreach activi-*
6 *ties of the Department.”.*

7 **(b) INCORPORATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO IM-**
8 **PROVE OUTREACH AND AWARENESS.**—*The Secretary of*
9 *Veterans Affairs shall, to the extent appropriate, incor-*
10 *porate the recommendations for the improvement of vet-*
11 *erans outreach and awareness activities included in the re-*
12 *port submitted to Congress by the Secretary pursuant to*
13 *section 805 of the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of*
14 *2004 (Public Law 108–454).*

15 **(c) REPEAL OF RECODIFIED PROVISIONS.**—*Sub-*
16 *chapter II of chapter 77 of title 38, United States Code,*
17 *is repealed.*

18 **(d) CONFORMING AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.**—

19 **(1)** *Subchapter III of chapter 77 of such title is*
20 *redesignated as subchapter II.*

21 **(2)** *The table of sections at the beginning of such*
22 *chapter is amended by striking the items relating to*
23 *the heading for subchapter II, sections 7721 through*
24 *7727, and the heading for subchapter III and insert-*
25 *ing the following:*

“SUBCHAPTER II—QUALITY ASSURANCE”.

1 (3) *The tables of chapters at the beginning of*
 2 *such title, and at the beginning of part IV of such*
 3 *title, are amended by inserting after the item relating*
 4 *to chapter 61 the following new item:*

“63. *Outreach Activities* 6301”.

5 (e) *CROSS-REFERENCE AMENDMENTS.—*

6 (1) *Section 3485(a)(4)(A) of title 38, United*
 7 *States Code, is amended by striking “subchapter II of*
 8 *chapter 77” and inserting “chapter 63”.*

9 (2) *Section 4113(a)(2) of such title is amended*
 10 *by striking “section 7723(a)” and inserting “section*
 11 *6304(a)”.*

12 (3) *Section 4214(g) of such title is amended by*
 13 *striking “section 7722” and “section 7724” and in-*
 14 *serting “section 6303” and “section 6305”, respec-*
 15 *tively.*

16 (4) *Section 168(b)(2)(B) of the Workforce Invest-*
 17 *ment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2913(b)(2)(B)) is*
 18 *amended by striking “subchapter II of chapter 77”*
 19 *and inserting “chapter 63”.*

20 **SEC. 403. EXTENSION OF ANNUAL REPORT REQUIREMENT**
 21 **ON EQUITABLE RELIEF CASES.**

22 *Section 503(c) of title 38, United States Code, is*
 23 *amended by striking “December 31, 2004” and inserting*
 24 *“December 31, 2009”.*

**TITLE V—TECHNICAL
AMENDMENTS**

**SEC. 501. TECHNICAL AND CLARIFYING AMENDMENTS TO
NEW TRAUMATIC INJURY PROTECTION COV-
ERAGE UNDER SERVICEMEMBERS’ GROUP
LIFE INSURANCE.**

(a) SECTION 1980A.—Section 1980A of title 38,
United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (a) is amended to read as follows:

“(a)(1) A member of the uniformed services who is in-
sured under Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance shall
automatically be insured for traumatic injury in accord-
ance with this section. Insurance benefits under this section
shall be payable if the member, while so insured, sustains
a traumatic injury on or after December 1, 2005, that re-
sults in a qualifying loss specified pursuant to subsection
(b)(1).

“(2) If a member suffers more than one such qualifying
loss as a result of traumatic injury from the same trau-
matic event, payment shall be made under this section in
accordance with the schedule prescribed pursuant to sub-
section (d) for the single loss providing the highest pay-
ment.”.

(2) Subsection (b) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) by striking “issued a” and all that
2 follows through “limited to—” and insert-
3 ing “insured against traumatic injury
4 under this section is insured against such
5 losses due to traumatic injury (in this sec-
6 tion referred to as ‘qualifying losses’) as are
7 prescribed by the Secretary by regulation.
8 Qualifying losses so prescribed shall include
9 the following.”;

10 (ii) by capitalizing the first letter of
11 the first word of each of subparagraphs (A)
12 through (H);

13 (iii) by striking the semicolon at the
14 end of each of subparagraphs (A) through
15 (F) and inserting a period; and

16 (iv) by striking “; and” at the end of
17 subparagraph (G) and inserting a period;
18 (B) in paragraph (2)—

19 (i) by striking “subsection—” and in-
20 serting “subsection.”;

21 (ii) by striking “the” at the beginning
22 of subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) and in-
23 serting “The”;

24 (iii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
25 “4 limbs;” and inserting “four limbs.”;

1 (iv) in subparagraph (B), by striking
2 “; and” at the end and inserting a period;

3 (v) in subparagraph (C), by striking
4 “1 side” and inserting “one side”; and

5 (vi) by adding at the end the following
6 new subparagraph:

7 “(D) The term ‘inability to carry out the activi-
8 ties of daily living’ means the inability to independ-
9 ently perform two or more of the following six func-
10 tions:

11 “(i) Bathing.

12 “(ii) Continence.

13 “(iii) Dressing.

14 “(iv) Eating.

15 “(v) Toileting.

16 “(vi) Transferring.”;

17 (C) in paragraph (3)—

18 (i) by striking “, in collaboration with
19 the Secretary of Defense,”;

20 (ii) by striking “shall prescribe” and
21 inserting “may prescribe”; and

22 (iii) by striking “the conditions under
23 which coverage against loss will not be pro-
24 vided” and inserting “conditions under

1 *which coverage otherwise provided under*
2 *this section is excluded*”; and

3 *(D) by adding at the end the following new*
4 *paragraph:*

5 “(4) *A member shall not be considered for the purposes*
6 *of this section to be a member insured under*
7 *Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance if the member is in-*
8 *sured under Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance only as*
9 *an insurable dependent of another member pursuant to sub-*
10 *paragraph (A)(ii) or (C)(ii) of section 1967(a)(1) of this*
11 *title.*”.

12 *(3) Subsection (c) is amended to read as follows:*

13 “(c)(1) *A payment may be made to a member under*
14 *this section only for a qualifying loss that results directly*
15 *from a traumatic injury sustained while the member is cov-*
16 *ered against loss under this section and from no other cause.*

17 “(2)(A) *A payment may be made to a member under*
18 *this section for a qualifying loss resulting from a traumatic*
19 *injury only for a loss that is incurred during the applicable*
20 *period of time specified pursuant to subparagraph (B).*

21 “(B) *For each qualifying loss, the Secretary shall pre-*
22 *scribe, by regulation, a period of time to be the period of*
23 *time within which a loss of that type must be incurred,*
24 *determined from the date on which the member sustains the*

1 *traumatic injury resulting in that loss, in order for that*
2 *loss to be covered under this section.”.*

3 (4) *Subsection (d) is amended by striking “losses*
4 *described in subsection (b)(1) shall be—” and all that*
5 *follows and inserting “qualifying losses shall be made*
6 *in accordance with a schedule prescribed by the Sec-*
7 *retary, by regulation, specifying the amount of pay-*
8 *ment to be made for each type of qualifying loss, to*
9 *be based on the severity of the qualifying loss. The*
10 *minimum payment that may be prescribed for a*
11 *qualifying loss is \$25,000, and the maximum pay-*
12 *ment that may be prescribed for a qualifying loss is*
13 *\$100,000.”.*

14 (5) *Subsection (e) is amended—*

15 (A) *by striking “of Veterans Affairs” each*
16 *place it appears;*

17 (B) *in paragraph (1), by striking “as the*
18 *premium allocable” and all that follows through*
19 *“protection under this section”;*

20 (C) *in paragraph (2), by striking “Sec-*
21 *retary of the concerned service” and inserting*
22 *“Secretary concerned”; and*

23 (D) *by striking paragraphs (6), (7), and (8)*
24 *and inserting the following:*

1 “(6) *The cost attributable to insuring members under*
2 *this section for any month or other period specified by the*
3 *Secretary, less the premiums paid by the members, shall*
4 *be paid by the Secretary concerned to the Secretary. The*
5 *Secretary shall allocate the amount payable among the uni-*
6 *formed services using such methods and data as the Sec-*
7 *retary determines to be reasonable and practicable. Pay-*
8 *ments under this paragraph shall be made on a monthly*
9 *basis or at such other intervals as may be specified by the*
10 *Secretary and shall be made within 10 days of the date*
11 *on which the Secretary provides notice to the Secretary con-*
12 *cerned of the amount required.*

13 “(7) *For each period for which a payment by a Sec-*
14 *retary concerned is required under paragraph (6), the Sec-*
15 *retary concerned shall contribute such amount from appro-*
16 *priations available for active duty pay of the uniformed*
17 *service concerned.*

18 “(8) *The sums withheld from the basic or other pay*
19 *of members, or collected from them by the Secretary con-*
20 *cerned, under this subsection, and the sums contributed*
21 *from appropriations under this subsection, together with the*
22 *income derived from any dividends or premium rate adjust-*
23 *ments received from insurers shall be deposited to the credit*
24 *of the revolving fund established in the Treasury of the*
25 *United States under section 1869(d)(1) of this title.”.*

1 (6) *Subsection (f) is amended to read as follows:*

2 “(f) *When a claim for benefits is submitted under this*
3 *section, the Secretary of Defense or, in the case of a member*
4 *not under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense, the*
5 *Secretary concerned, shall certify to the Secretary whether*
6 *the member with respect to whom the claim is submitted—*

7 “(1) *was at the time of the injury giving rise to*
8 *the claim insured under Servicemembers’ Group Life*
9 *Insurance for the purposes of this section; and*

10 “(2) *has sustained a qualifying loss.”.*

11 (7) *Subsection (g) of such section is amended—*

12 (A) *by inserting “(1)” after “(g)”;*

13 (B) *by striking “will not be made” and in-*
14 *serting “may not be made under the insurance*
15 *coverage under this section”;*

16 (C) *by striking “the period” and all that*
17 *follows through “the date” and inserting “a pe-*
18 *riod prescribed by the Secretary, by regulation,*
19 *for such purpose that begins on the date”;*

20 (D) *by designating the second sentence as*
21 *paragraph (2);*

22 (E) *by striking “If the member” and insert-*
23 *ing “If a member eligible for a payment under*
24 *this section” ;*

1 (F) by striking “will be” and inserting
2 “shall be”; and

3 (G) by striking “according to” and all that
4 follows and inserting “to the beneficiary or bene-
5 ficiaries to whom the payment would be made if
6 the payment were life insurance under section
7 1967(a) of this title.”.

8 (8) Subsection (h) of such section is amended—

9 (A) in the first sentence, by striking “mem-
10 ber’s separation from the uniformed service” and
11 inserting “termination of the member’s duty sta-
12 tus in the uniformed services that established eli-
13 gibility for Servicemembers’ Group Life Insur-
14 ance”;

15 (B) by striking the second sentence; and

16 (C) by adding at the end the following new
17 sentence: “The termination of coverage under
18 this section is effective in accordance with the
19 preceding sentence, notwithstanding any con-
20 tinuation after the date specified in that sentence
21 of Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance cov-
22 erage pursuant to 1968(a) of this title for a pe-
23 riod specified in that section.”.

24 (9) Such section is further amended by adding at
25 the end the following new subsection:

1 “(j) *Regulations under this section shall be prescribed*
2 *in consultation with the Secretary of Defense.*”

3 (b) *APPLICABILITY TO QUALIFYING LOSSES INCURRED*
4 *IN OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM AND OPERATION IRAQI*
5 *FREEDOM BEFORE EFFECTIVE DATE OF NEW PROGRAM.—*

6 (1) *ELIGIBILITY.—A member of the uniformed*
7 *services who during the period beginning on October*
8 *7, 2001, and ending at the close of November 30,*
9 *2005, sustains a traumatic injury resulting in a*
10 *qualifying loss is eligible for coverage for that loss*
11 *under section 1980A of title 38, United States Code,*
12 *if, as determined by the Secretary concerned, that loss*
13 *was a direct result of a traumatic injury incurred in*
14 *the theater of operations for Operation Enduring*
15 *Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.*

16 (2) *CERTIFICATION OF PERSONS ENTITLED TO*
17 *PAYMENT.—The Secretary concerned shall certify to*
18 *the life insurance company issuing the policy of life*
19 *insurance for Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance*
20 *under chapter 19 of title 38, United States Code, the*
21 *name and address of each person who the Secretary*
22 *concerned determines to be entitled by reason of para-*
23 *graph (1) to a payment under section 1980A of title*
24 *38, United States Code, plus such additional informa-*
25 *tion as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may require.*

1 (3) *FUNDING.*—*At the time a certification is*
2 *made under paragraph (2), the Secretary concerned,*
3 *from funds then available to that Secretary for the*
4 *pay of members of the uniformed services under the*
5 *jurisdiction of that Secretary, shall pay to the Sec-*
6 *retary of Veterans Affairs the amount of funds the*
7 *Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines to be nec-*
8 *essary to pay all costs related to payments to be made*
9 *under that certification. Amounts received by the Sec-*
10 *retary of Veterans Affairs under this paragraph shall*
11 *be deposited to the credit of the revolving fund in the*
12 *Treasury of the United States established under sec-*
13 *tion 1969(d) of title 38, United States Code.*

14 (4) *QUALIFYING LOSS.*—*For purposes of this sub-*
15 *section, the term “qualifying loss” means—*

16 (A) *a loss specified in the second sentence of*
17 *subsection (b)(1) of section 1980A of title 38,*
18 *United States Code, as amended by subsection*
19 *(a); and*

20 (B) *any other loss specified by the Secretary*
21 *of Veterans Affairs pursuant to the first sentence*
22 *of that subsection.*

23 (5) *SECRETARY CONCERNED.*—*For purposes of*
24 *this subsection, the term “Secretary concerned” has*

1 *the meaning given that term in paragraph (25) of*
 2 *section 101 of title 38, United States Code.*

3 *(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—*

4 *(1) Section 1965 of title 38, United States Code,*
 5 *is amended by striking paragraph (11).*

6 *(2) Section 1032(c) of Public Law 109–13 (119*
 7 *Stat. 257; 38 U.S.C. 1980A note) is repealed.*

8 **SEC. 502. TERMINOLOGY AMENDMENTS TO REVISE REF-**
 9 **ERENCES TO CERTAIN VETERANS IN PROVI-**
 10 **SIONS RELATING TO ELIGIBILITY FOR COM-**
 11 **PENSATION OR DEPENDENCY AND INDEM-**
 12 **NITY COMPENSATION.**

13 *Title 38, United States Code, is amended as follows:*

14 *(1) Section 1114(l) is amended by striking “so*
 15 *helpless” and inserting “with such significant disabili-*
 16 *ties”.*

17 *(2) Section 1114(m) is amended by striking “so*
 18 *helpless” and inserting “so significantly disabled”.*

19 *(3) Sections 1115(1)(E)(ii), 1122(b)(2),*
 20 *1311(c)(2), 1315(g)(2), and 1502(b)(2) are amended*
 21 *by striking “helpless or blind, or so nearly helpless or*
 22 *blind as to” and inserting “blind, or so nearly blind*
 23 *or significantly disabled as to”.*

24 **SEC. 503. TECHNICAL AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.**

25 *Title 38, United States Code, is amended as follows:*

1 (1) *TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR.*—Section 1117(h)(1)
2 is amended by striking “notwithstanding” and in-
3 serting “notwithstanding”.

4 (2) *INSERTION OF MISSING WORD.*—Section
5 1513(a) is amended by inserting “section” after “pre-
6 scribed by”.

7 (3) *DELETION OF EXTRA WORDS.*—Section
8 3012(a)(1)(C)(ii) is amended by striking “on or”.

9 (4) *CROSS REFERENCE CORRECTION.*—Section
10 3017(b)(1)(D) is amended by striking “3011(c)” and
11 inserting “3011(e)”.

12 (5) *STYLISTIC AMENDMENTS.*—Section 3018A is
13 amended—

14 (A) by striking “of this section” in sub-
15 sections (b) and (c);

16 (B) by striking “of this subsection” in sub-
17 sections (a)(4), (a)(5), (d)(1) (both places it ap-
18 pears), and (d)(3); and

19 (C) by striking “of this chapter” in sub-
20 section (d)(3) and inserting “of this title”.

21 (6) *CROSS REFERENCE CORRECTION.*—Section
22 3117(b)(1) is amended—

23 (A) by striking “section 8” and inserting
24 “section 4(b)(1)”; and

1 (B) by striking “633(b)” and inserting
2 “633(b)(1)”.

3 (7) *INSERTION OF MISSING WORD.*—Section
4 3511(a)(1) is amended by inserting “sections” after
5 “under both”.

6 (8) *SUBSECTION HEADINGS.*—

7 (A) Sections 3461, 3462, 3481, 3565, 3680,
8 and 3690 are each amended by revising each
9 subsection heading for a subsection therein (ap-
10 pearing as a centered heading immediately be-
11 fore the text of the subsection) so that such head-
12 ing appears immediately after the subsection des-
13 ignation and is set forth in capitals-and-small-
14 capitals typeface, followed by a period and a
15 one-em dash.

16 (B) Section 3461(c) is amended by insert-
17 ing after the subsection designation the following:
18 “*DURATION OF ENTITLEMENT.*—”.

19 (C) Section 3462 is amended—

20 (i) in subsection (d), by inserting after
21 the subsection designation the following:

22 “*PRISONERS OF WAR.*—”; and

23 (ii) in subsection (e), by inserting after
24 the subsection designation the following:

25 “*TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE.*—”.

1 (9) *CROSS REFERENCE CORRECTION.*—Section
2 3732(c)(10)(D) is amended by striking “clause (B) of
3 paragraphs (5), (6), (7), and (8) of this subsection”
4 and inserting “paragraphs (5)(B), (6), (7)(B), and
5 (8)(B)”.

6 (10) *DATE OF ENACTMENT REFERENCE.*—Sec-
7 tion 3733(a)(7) is amended by striking “the date of
8 the enactment of the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003”
9 and inserting “December 16, 2003”.

10 (11) *REPEAL OF OBSOLETE PROVISIONS.*—Sec-
11 tion 4102A is amended—

12 (A) in subsection (c)(7)—

13 (i) by striking “With respect to pro-
14 gram years beginning during or after fiscal
15 year 2004, one percent of” and inserting
16 “Of”; and

17 (ii) by striking “for the program year”
18 and inserting “for any program year, one
19 percent”; and

20 (B) in subsection (f)(1), by striking “By not
21 later than May 7, 2003, the” and inserting
22 “The”.

23 (12) *REPEAL OF OBSOLETE PROVISIONS.*—Sec-
24 tion 4105(b) is amended—

1 (A) by striking “shall provide,” and all that
2 follows through “Affairs with” and inserting
3 “shall, on the 15th day of each month, provide
4 the Secretary and the Secretary of Veterans Af-
5 fairs with updated information regarding”; and

6 (B) by striking “and shall” and all that fol-
7 lows through “regarding the list”.

8 (13) CITATION CORRECTION.—Section 4110B is
9 amended—

10 (A) by striking “this Act” and inserting
11 “the Workforce Investment Act of 1998”; and

12 (B) by inserting “(29 U.S.C. 2822(b))” be-
13 fore the period at the end.

14 (14) CROSS-REFERENCE CORRECTION.—Section
15 4331(b)(2)(C) is amended by striking “section
16 2303(a)(2)(C)(ii)” and inserting “section
17 2302(a)(2)(C)(ii)”.

18 (15) CAPITALIZATION CORRECTION.—Section
19 7253(d)(5) is amended by striking “court” and in-
20 sserting “Court”.

Amend the title so as to read “An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and extend housing, insurance, outreach, and benefits programs provided under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to improve and extend employment programs for veterans under laws administered by the Secretary of Labor, and for other purposes.”.

Attest:

Clerk.

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 1235

AMENDMENTS