

Union Calendar No. 366

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5360

[Report No. 111-626]

To amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the standard of visual acuity required for eligibility for specially adapted housing assistance provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 20, 2010

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN (for herself and Mr. BOOZMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

SEPTEMBER 28, 2010

Additional sponsors: Mr. TEAGUE and Ms. SLAUGHTER

SEPTEMBER 28, 2010

Reported with amendments, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the standard of visual acuity required for eligibility for specially adapted housing assistance provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Blinded Veterans
 5 Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2010”.

6 **SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF STANDARD OF VISUAL ACUITY**
 7 **REQUIRED FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR SPECIALLY**
 8 **ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROVIDED**
 9 **BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

10 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 2101(b)(2)(A) of title 38,
 11 United States Code, is amended by striking “5/200 visual
 12 acuity or less” and inserting “20/200 best corrected visual
 13 acuity or less or a peripheral field of 20 degrees or less”.

14 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by
 15 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to specially adapted
 16 housing assistance provided on or after the date of the
 17 enactment of this Act.

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

19 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—*This Act may be cited as the*
 20 *“Housing, Employment, and Living Programs for Veterans*
 21 *Act of 2010” or the “HELP Veterans Act of 2010”.*

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.

Sec. 3. Modification of standard of visual acuity required for eligibility for spe-
cially adapted housing assistance provided by the Secretary of
Veterans Affairs.

- Sec. 4. Authorities regarding housing loans guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.*
- Sec. 5. Reauthorization and improvement of Department of Veterans Affairs small business loan program.*
- Sec. 6. Assistance for flight training.*
- Sec. 7. Seven-year increase in amount of assistance for individuals pursuing internships or on-job training.*
- Sec. 8. Extension of authority for certain qualifying work-study activities for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs.*
- Sec. 9. Expansion of work-study allowance to include certain outreach services conducted through congressional offices.*
- Sec. 10. Temporary reduction of required amount of wages for on-the-job training programs.*
- Sec. 11. Reauthorization of Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education.*
- Sec. 12. Homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children reintegration grant program.*
- Sec. 13. Technology review and grant program.*
- Sec. 14. Child care; President's Budget.*
- Sec. 15. Increase in amount of reporting fee payable to educational institutions that enroll veterans receiving educational assistance.*
- Sec. 16. Modification of advance payment of initial educational assistance or subsistence allowance.*
- Sec. 17. Increase in amount of subsistence allowance payable to veterans participating in vocational rehabilitation program.*
- Sec. 18. Expansion of availability of employment assistance allowance for veterans using employment services.*
- Sec. 19. Promoting jobs for service-disabled veterans teaching in rural areas.*
- Sec. 20. Promoting jobs for veterans through the establishment of an internship program.*
- Sec. 21. Promoting jobs for veterans through the use of sole source contracts by Department of Veterans Affairs for purposes of meeting the contracting goals and preferences of the Department of Veterans Affairs for small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans.*
- Sec. 22. Veterans entrepreneurial development summit.*
- Sec. 23. Increase in the maximum amount of specially adapted housing assistance authorized to be provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.*
- Sec. 24. Department of Veterans Affairs housing loans for construction of energy efficient dwellings.*
- Sec. 25. Pilot program on specially adapted housing assistance for veterans residing temporarily in housing owned by a family member.*

1 SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.

- 2 Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in*
- 3 this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of*
- 4 an amendment to, or a repeal of, a section or other provi-*

1 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section
2 or other provision of title 38, United States Code.

3 **SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF STANDARD OF VISUAL ACUITY**
4 **REQUIRED FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR SPECIALLY**
5 **ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROVIDED**
6 **BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

7 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 2101(b)(2)(A) is amended
8 by striking “with 5/200” and all that follows through the
9 period and inserting the following: “with central visual
10 acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with the use of
11 standard correcting lenses (for purposes of this subpara-
12 graph, an eye which is accompanied by a limitation in the
13 fields of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual
14 field subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees shall be
15 treated as having a central visual acuity of 20/200 or
16 less).”.

17 (b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendment made by sub-
18 section (a) shall apply with respect to specially adapted
19 housing assistance provided on or after the date of the en-
20 actment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 4. AUTHORITIES REGARDING HOUSING LOANS GUAR-**
2 **ANTEED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
3 **AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) *COVENANTS AND LIENS IN RESPONSE TO DIS-*
5 *ASTER-RELIEF ASSISTANCE.*—*Paragraph (3) of section*
6 *3703(d) is amended to read as follows:*

7 “(3)(A) *Any real estate housing loan (other than for*
8 *repairs, alterations, or improvements) shall be secured by*
9 *a first lien on the realty. In determining whether a loan*
10 *is so secured, the Secretary may either disregard or allow*
11 *for subordination to a superior lien that—*

12 “(i) *is created by a duly recorded covenant run-*
13 *ning with the realty in favor of—*

14 “(I) *a public entity that provides assistance*
15 *in response to a major disaster as determined by*
16 *the President under the Robert T. Stafford Dis-*
17 *aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42*
18 *U.S.C. 5121 et seq.); or*

19 “(II) *a private entity to secure an obliga-*
20 *tion to such entity for the homeowner’s share of*
21 *the costs of the management, operation, or main-*
22 *tenance of property, services, or programs within*
23 *and for the benefit of the development or commu-*
24 *nity in which the veteran’s realty is located; and*

1 “(ii) the Secretary determines will not prejudice
2 the interests of the veteran borrower and of the Gov-
3 ernment by the operation of such a covenant.

4 “(B) In respect to a superior lien described by sub-
5 paragraph (A) that is created after June 6, 1969, the Sec-
6 retary’s determination must have been made prior to the
7 recording of the covenant.”.

8 (b) *EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO POOL LOANS.*—
9 Paragraph (2) of section 3720(h) is amended by striking
10 “2011” and inserting “2016”.

11 **SEC. 5. REAUTHORIZATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF DE-**
12 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SMALL**
13 **BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM.**

14 (a) *REAUTHORIZATION.*—

15 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Chapter 37 is amended by
16 striking section 3751.

17 (2) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—The table of sec-
18 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended by
19 striking the item relating to section 3751.

20 (3) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.*—Section 3749 is
21 amended by striking subsection (e).

22 (b) *EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SMALL BUSINESS*
23 *LOANS.*—Chapter 37 is further amended—

24 (1) in section 3741—

25 (A) by striking paragraph (2); and

1 (B) by striking “this subchapter—” and all
2 that follows through “‘disabled veteran’” and in-
3 serting “this subchapter, the term ‘disabled vet-
4 eran’”; and

5 (2) in section 3742(a)(3)(A), by striking “vet-
6 erans of the Vietnam era or”.

7 (c) *REPEAL OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE DIRECT*
8 *LOANS.*—Chapter 37, as amended by subsections (a) and
9 (b), is further amended—

10 (1) in section 3742—

11 (A) in subsection (a)—

12 (i) in paragraph (2), by striking “(A)
13 loan guaranties, or (B) direct loans” and
14 inserting “loan guaranties”; and

15 (ii) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking
16 “and that at least 51 percent of a business
17 concern must be owned by disabled veterans
18 in order for such concern to qualify for a
19 direct loan”;

20 (B) in subsection (b)—

21 (i) by striking paragraph (1) and re-
22 designating paragraphs (2) through (4) as
23 paragraphs (1) through (3), respectively;
24 and

1 (ii) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated,
2 by striking “make or”;

3 (C) in subsection (c), by striking “made
4 or”;

5 (D) in subsection (d)—

6 (i) by striking paragraph (2);

7 (ii) by striking “(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection,
8 the” and inserting “The”; and

9 (iii) by striking “make or”; and

10 (E) in subsection (e)—

11 (i) in paragraph (1)—

12 (I) in the first sentence, by striking
13 “or, if the loan was a direct loan
14 made by the Secretary, may suspend
15 such obligation”; and

16 (II) in the second sentence, by
17 striking “or while such obligation is
18 suspended”;

19 (i) by striking “or suspend” each
20 place it appears;

21 (ii) by striking “or suspension” each
22 place it appears;

23 (iii) by striking “or suspends” each
24 place it appears; and
25

1 (v) by striking “or suspended” each
2 place it appears;

3 (2) in section 3743—

4 (A) by striking “that is provided a direct
5 loan under this subchapter, or”;

6 (B) by striking the comma between “sub-
7 chapter” and “shall”;

8 (C) by striking “direct or”; and

9 (D) by striking “for the amount of such di-
10 rect loan or, in the case of a guaranteed loan,”;

11 (3) in section 3746, by striking “made or” both
12 places it appears;

13 (4) in section 3749(b), by striking “and direct
14 loan”; and

15 (5) in section 3750, by striking “made or”.

16 (d) *AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT.*—Sec-
17 tion 3742, as amended by subsection (c), is further amended
18 by adding at the end the following new subsection:

19 “(f) *The Secretary shall enter into a contract with an*
20 *appropriate entity for the purpose of carrying out the pro-*
21 *gram under this subchapter.”.*

22 (e) *LOAN FEE.*—

23 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Chapter 37 is further amend-
24 ed by inserting after section 3749 the following new
25 section:

1 **“§ 3749A. Loan Fee**

2 “(a) *REQUIREMENT OF FEE.*—(1) *The Secretary*
3 *shall—*

4 “(A) *collect a fee from each veterans’ small busi-*
5 *ness concern obtaining a loan guaranteed under this*
6 *subchapter; and*

7 “(B) *deposit such fee in the fund established*
8 *under section 3749 of this title.*

9 “(2) *No loan may be guaranteed under this subchapter*
10 *until the fee payable under this section has been remitted*
11 *to the Secretary.*

12 “(3) *The fee may be included in the loan guaranteed*
13 *under this subchapter and paid from the proceeds thereof.*

14 “(b) *DETERMINATION OF FEE.*—*The amount of the fee*
15 *shall be an amount necessary to ensure the solvency of the*
16 *fund established under section 3749 of this title, as deter-*
17 *mined by the Secretary.”.*

18 (2) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—*The table of sec-*
19 *tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended by*
20 *inserting after the item relating to section 3749 the*
21 *following new item:*

“3749A. *Loan fee.*”.

22 (3) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.*—*Paragraph (2)*
23 *of section 3749(c) is amended by inserting “, fees col-*
24 *lected under section 3749A of this title,” after “prin-*
25 *cipal and interest”.*

1 **SEC. 6. ASSISTANCE FOR FLIGHT TRAINING.**

2 *Subsection (e)(1) of section 3032 is amended by strik-*
3 *ing “60 percent” and inserting “75 percent”.*

4 **SEC. 7. SEVEN-YEAR INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE**
5 **FOR INDIVIDUALS PURSUING INTERNSHIPS**
6 **OR ON-JOB TRAINING.**

7 *During the seven-year period beginning on the date of*
8 *the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs*
9 *shall apply—*

10 *(1) section 3032(c)(1) of title 38, United States*
11 *Code—*

12 *(A) in subparagraph (A), by substituting*
13 *“80 percent” for “75 percent”;*

14 *(B) in subparagraph (B), by substituting*
15 *“60 percent” for “55 percent”; and*

16 *(C) in subparagraph (C), by substituting*
17 *“40 percent” for “35 percent”;*

18 *(2) section 3233(a) of such title—*

19 *(A) in paragraph (1), by substituting “80*
20 *percent” for “75 percent”;*

21 *(B) in paragraph (2), by substituting “60*
22 *percent” for “55 percent”; and*

23 *(C) in paragraph (3), by substituting “40*
24 *percent” for “35 percent”;*

25 *(3) section 3687(b)(2) of such title—*

26 *(A) by substituting “\$603” for “\$574”;*

1 (B) by substituting “\$450” for “\$429”; and

2 (C) by substituting “\$299” for “\$285”; and

3 (4) section 16131(d)(1) of title 10, United States

4 Code—

5 (A) in subparagraph (A), by substituting

6 “80 percent” for “75 percent”;

7 (B) in subparagraph (B), by substituting

8 “60 percent” for “55 percent”; and

9 (C) in subparagraph (C), by substituting

10 “40 percent” for “35 percent”.

11 **SEC. 8. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN QUALI-**
12 **FYING WORK-STUDY ACTIVITIES FOR PUR-**
13 **POSES OF THE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**
14 **PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
15 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

16 Paragraph (4) of section 3485(a) is amended by strik-
17 ing “June 30, 2010” each place it appears and inserting
18 “June 30, 2020”.

19 **SEC. 9. EXPANSION OF WORK-STUDY ALLOWANCE TO IN-**
20 **CLUDE CERTAIN OUTREACH SERVICES CON-**
21 **DUCTED THROUGH CONGRESSIONAL OF-**
22 **FICES.**

23 Section 3485(a)(4) is amended by adding at the end
24 the following new subparagraph:

1 “(G) *The following activities carried out at the*
2 *offices of Members of Congress for such Members:*

3 “(i) *The distribution of information to*
4 *members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and*
5 *their dependents about the benefits and services*
6 *under laws administered by the Secretary and*
7 *other appropriate governmental and non-govern-*
8 *mental programs.*

9 “(ii) *The provision of assistance in*
10 *ascertaining the status of claims (including ap-*
11 *peals) for benefits under laws administered by*
12 *the Secretary, as well as other constituent serv-*
13 *ices for veterans as the Secretary determines ap-*
14 *propriate.”.*

15 **SEC. 10. TEMPORARY REDUCTION OF REQUIRED AMOUNT**
16 **OF WAGES FOR ON-THE-JOB TRAINING PRO-**
17 **GRAMS.**

18 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—

19 (1) *REDUCING REQUIREMENT.*—*Section*
20 *3677(b)(1)(A)(ii) is amended by striking “85 per cen-*
21 *tum” and inserting “60 percent”.*

22 (2) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—*The amendment made by*
23 *paragraph (1) shall take effect on October 1, 2010,*
24 *and shall apply to a veteran who enrolls in a pro-*
25 *gram of training on the job approved under section*

1 **SEC. 12. HOMELESS WOMEN VETERANS AND HOMELESS**
2 **VETERANS WITH CHILDREN REINTEGRATION**
3 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

4 (a) *GRANT PROGRAM.*—Chapter 20 is amended by in-
5 serting after section 2021 the following new section:

6 **“§ 2021A. Homeless women veterans and homeless vet-**
7 **erans with children reintegration grant**
8 **program**

9 “(a) *GRANTS.*—Subject to the availability of appro-
10 priations provided for such purpose, the Secretary of Labor
11 shall make grants to programs and facilities that the Sec-
12 retary determines provide dedicated services for homeless
13 women veterans and homeless veterans with children.

14 “(b) *USE OF FUNDS.*—Grants under this section shall
15 be used to provide job training, counseling, placement serv-
16 ices (including job readiness and literacy and skills train-
17 ing) and child care services to expedite the reintegration
18 of homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with
19 children into the labor force.

20 “(c) *REQUIREMENT TO MONITOR EXPENDITURES OF*
21 *FUNDS.*—(1) The Secretary of Labor shall collect such in-
22 formation as that Secretary considers appropriate to mon-
23 itor and evaluate the distribution and expenditure of funds
24 appropriated to carry out this section. The information
25 shall include data with respect to the results or outcomes

1 *of the services provided to each homeless veteran under this*
2 *section.*

3 “(2) *Information under paragraph (1) shall be fur-*
4 *nished in such form and manner as the Secretary of Labor*
5 *may specify.*

6 “(d) *ADMINISTRATION THROUGH THE ASSISTANT*
7 *SECRETARY OF LABOR FOR VETERANS’ EMPLOYMENT AND*
8 *TRAINING.—The Secretary of Labor shall carry out this sec-*
9 *tion through the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans’*
10 *Employment and Training.*

11 “(e) *BIENNIAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary*
12 *of Labor shall include as part of the report required under*
13 *section 2021(d) of this title an evaluation of the grant pro-*
14 *gram under this section, which shall include an evaluation*
15 *of services furnished to veterans under this section and an*
16 *analysis of the information collected under subsection (c).*

17 “(f) *APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—(1) In addition to any*
18 *amount authorized to be appropriated to carry out section*
19 *2021 of this title, there is authorized to be appropriated*
20 *to carry out this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years*
21 *2011 through 2016.*

22 “(2) *Funds appropriated to carry out this section shall*
23 *remain available until expended. Funds obligated in any*
24 *fiscal year to carry out this section may be expended in*
25 *that fiscal year and the succeeding fiscal year.”.*

1 (b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—*The table of sections at*
 2 *the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after*
 3 *the item relating to section 2021 the following new item:*

“2021A. Homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children reintegration grant program.”.

4 **SEC. 13. TECHNOLOGY REVIEW AND GRANT PROGRAM.**

5 (a) *REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF NEW TECH-*
 6 *NOLOGY.*—*The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish*
 7 *a team of individuals from appropriate disciplines to be*
 8 *responsible for reviewing new technologies, processes, and*
 9 *products and for determining which such technologies, proc-*
 10 *esses, and products may be beneficial to the Department of*
 11 *Veterans Affairs or to the veterans served by the Depart-*
 12 *ment. Upon completion of the review under this subsection,*
 13 *the team shall submit the review to the Secretary, who shall*
 14 *disseminate the review within the Department, as appro-*
 15 *priate.*

16 (b) *SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTIVE TECH-*
 17 *NOLOGY GRANT PROGRAM.*—

18 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Chapter 21 is amended by*
 19 *adding at the end the following new section:*

20 **“§2108. Specially adapted housing assistive tech-**
 21 **nology grant program**

22 “(a) *AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS.*—*The Secretary*
 23 *shall make grants to encourage the development of new as-*
 24 *sistive technologies for specially adapted housing.*

1 “(b) *APPLICATION*.—A person or entity seeking a
2 grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an
3 application for the grant in such form and manner as the
4 Secretary shall specify.

5 “(c) *GRANT FUNDS*.—Each grant awarded under this
6 section shall be in an amount of not more than \$250,000
7 per year.

8 “(d) *USE OF FUNDS*.—The recipient of a grant under
9 this section shall use the grant to develop assistive tech-
10 nologies for use in specially adapted housing.

11 “(e) *REPORT*.—Not later than March 1 of each year
12 following a year in which the Secretary makes a grant, the
13 Secretary shall submit to Congress a report containing in-
14 formation related to each grant awarded under this section
15 during the preceding calendar year, including—

16 “(1) the name of the grant recipient;

17 “(2) the amount of the grant; and

18 “(3) the goal of the grant.

19 “(f) *FUNDING*.—From amounts authorized to be ap-
20 propriated to the Department for each fiscal year for which
21 the Secretary is authorized to make a grant under this sec-
22 tion, \$1,500,000 shall be available for that fiscal year for
23 the purposes of the program under this section.

1 “(g) *TERMINATION.*—*The authority to make a grant*
 2 *under this section shall terminate on the date that is five*
 3 *years after the date of the enactment of this section.*”.

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

“2108. *Specially adapted housing assistive technology grant program.*”.

7 (3) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—*The Secretary of Vet-*
 8 *erans Affairs shall begin making grants under section*
 9 *2108 of title 38, United States Code, as added by*
 10 *paragraph (1), by not later than one year after the*
 11 *date of the enactment of this Act.*

12 **SEC. 14. CHILD CARE; PRESIDENT’S BUDGET.**

13 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Chapter 31 is amended by adding*
 14 *at the end the following new sections:*

15 **“§ 3123. Child care assistance for single parents**

16 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Pursuant to regulations pre-*
 17 *scribed by the Secretary to carry out this section, the Sec-*
 18 *retary shall provide reimbursements for the actual cost of*
 19 *child care provided by a licensed provider to a veteran*
 20 *who—*

21 “(1) *is participating in a vocational rehabilita-*
 22 *tion program under this chapter;*

23 “(2) *is the sole caretaker of a child; and*

24 “(3) *would not otherwise be able to afford such*
 25 *child care.*

“3123. Child care assistance for single parents.

“3124. Information included in support of President’s budget.”.

1 **SEC. 15. INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF REPORTING FEE PAY-**
 2 **ABLE TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT**
 3 **ENROLL VETERANS RECEIVING EDU-**
 4 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE.**

5 *(a) INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF FEE.—Subsection (c) of*
 6 *section 3684 is amended—*

7 *(1) by striking “\$7” and inserting “\$16”; and*

8 *(2) by striking “\$11” and inserting “\$16”.*

9 *(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Subsection (a) of such*
 10 *section is amended by striking the second comma after*
 11 *“34”.*

12 *(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by sub-*
 13 *sections (a) and (b) shall take effect on January 1, 2011.*

14 **SEC. 16. MODIFICATION OF ADVANCE PAYMENT OF INITIAL**
 15 **EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE OR SUBSISTENCE**
 16 **ALLOWANCE.**

17 *(a) MODIFICATION.—Section 3680(d)(2) is amended*
 18 *by inserting after the third sentence the following new sen-*
 19 *tence: “For purposes of the entitlement to educational as-*
 20 *sistance of the veteran or person receiving an advance pay-*
 21 *ment under this subsection, the advance payment shall be*
 22 *charged against the final month of the entitlement of the*
 23 *person or veteran and, if necessary, the penultimate such*
 24 *month. In no event may any veteran or person receive more*

1 *than one advance payment under this subsection during*
 2 *any academic year.”.*

3 (b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—*The amendment made by sub-*
 4 *section (a) shall apply with respect to an advance payment*
 5 *of educational assistance made on or after September 1,*
 6 *2010.*

7 **SEC. 17. INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF SUBSISTENCE ALLOW-**
 8 **ANCE PAYABLE TO VETERANS PARTICI-**
 9 **PATING IN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**
 10 **PROGRAM.**

11 (a) *INCREASE IN SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE.*—*Section*
 12 *3108(b)(1) is amended by striking the table and inserting*
 13 *the following new table:*

| “Column I | Column II | Column III | Column IV | Column V |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| <i>Type of program</i> | <i>No dependents</i> | <i>One depend- ent</i> | <i>Two dependents</i> | <i>More than two dependents</i> |
| | | | | <i>The amount in column IV, plus the following for each dependent in excess of two:</i> |
| <i>Full-time</i> | <i>\$576.01</i> | <i>\$714.50</i> | <i>\$841.98</i> | <i>\$61.37</i> |
| <i>Three-quarter time.</i> | <i>\$432.80</i> | <i>\$536.65</i> | <i>\$629.50</i> | <i>\$47.19</i> |
| <i>Half-time</i> | <i>\$289.59</i> | <i>\$358.81</i> | <i>\$421.77</i> | <i>\$31.49”.</i> |

14 (b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—*The amendment made by sub-*
 15 *section (a) shall apply with respect to a payment made for*
 16 *the third month beginning after the date of the enactment*
 17 *of this Act and each subsequent month.*

1 **SEC. 18. EXPANSION OF AVAILABILITY OF EMPLOYMENT AS-**
2 **SISTANCE ALLOWANCE FOR VETERANS USING**
3 **EMPLOYMENT SERVICES.**

4 *Paragraph (2) of section 3108(a) is amended to read*
5 *as follows:*

6 *“(2) In the case of a veteran with a service-connected*
7 *disability who the Secretary determines has reached a point*
8 *of employability and who is participating only in a pro-*
9 *gram of employment services provided under section*
10 *3104(a)(5) of this title, the Secretary shall pay the veteran*
11 *a subsistence allowance as prescribed in this section for*
12 *three months while the veteran is satisfactorily pursuing*
13 *such program.”.*

14 **SEC. 19. PROMOTING JOBS FOR SERVICE-DISABLED VET-**
15 **ERANS TEACHING IN RURAL AREAS.**

16 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 36 is amended by adding*
17 *at the end the following new section:*

18 **“§ 3698. Assistance allowance for rural veteran teach-**
19 **ers**

20 *“(a) REDUCING ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN.—The Sec-*
21 *retary may pay to a rural veteran teacher a monthly assist-*
22 *ance allowance of \$500.*

23 *“(b) DURATION.—The aggregate period for which the*
24 *Secretary may pay a rural veteran teacher a monthly as-*
25 *sistance allowance under subsection (a) may not exceed 24*
26 *months.*

1 “(c) *RURAL VETERAN TEACHER DEFINED.*—*In this*
2 *section, the term ‘rural veteran teacher’ means a veteran*
3 *who—*

4 “(1) *is discharged from service in the Armed*
5 *Forces under honorable conditions;*

6 “(2) *is employed to teach full-time at an accred-*
7 *ited elementary or secondary school that is located in*
8 *a rural area (as determined by the Bureau of the*
9 *Census);*

10 “(3) *on the date on which the veteran applies for*
11 *a monthly assistance allowance under subsection (a),*
12 *is enrolled in an accredited course leading to certifi-*
13 *cation as a teacher;*

14 “(4) *has not been previously employed to teach*
15 *full-time at an accredited elementary or secondary*
16 *school; and*

17 “(5) *is entitled to compensation under section*
18 *1110 of this title.*

19 “(d) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—*There is*
20 *authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section*
21 *\$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2012 and each fiscal year there-*
22 *after.”.*

23 “(b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—*The table of sections at*
24 *the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after*
25 *the item relating to section 3697A the following new item:*

“3698. Assistance allowance for rural veteran teachers.”.

1 **SEC. 20. PROMOTING JOBS FOR VETERANS THROUGH THE**
2 **ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNSHIP PRO-**
3 **GRAM.**

4 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Chapter 7 is amended by adding
5 at the end the following new section:

6 **“§ 712. Internship program**

7 “(a) *INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.*—The Secretary may
8 carry out an internship program through which the Sec-
9 retary shall award internships to up to 2,000 veterans each
10 year in accordance with this section. The recipient of an
11 internship under this section shall be employed in the Vet-
12 erans Benefits Administration for the duration of the in-
13 ternship.

14 “(b) *ELIGIBILITY.*—To be eligible to receive an intern-
15 ship under this section a veteran shall have completed a
16 rehabilitation program under chapter 31 of this title. In
17 awarding internships under this section, the Secretary shall
18 give a preference to a veteran who has completed a program
19 of long-term education or training, as determined by the
20 Secretary.

21 “(c) *SALARY; BENEFITS.*—(1) Each recipient of an in-
22 ternship under this section shall be paid at a rate deter-
23 mined by the Secretary, except that such rate shall be at
24 least the maximum annual rate of basic pay payable for
25 grade GS–3 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of
26 title 5, United States Code, and shall not exceed the max-

1 *imum annual rate of basic pay payable for grade GS-5*
2 *of such schedule. Payments under this paragraph shall be*
3 *derived from amounts available in the ‘General operating*
4 *expenses’ account of the Department.*

5 “(2) *Each such recipient shall be entitled to leave on*
6 *the same basis as employees of the Department who are paid*
7 *at the same annual rate, except that such recipient may*
8 *not be reimbursed for any unused leave at the end of the*
9 *internship.*

10 “(3) *The Secretary shall furnish hospital care, medical*
11 *services, and nursing home care to each recipient of an in-*
12 *ternship under this section on the same basis as a veteran*
13 *described in subsection (B) of paragraph (2) of subsection*
14 *(a) of section 1710 of this title unless the recipient is eligible*
15 *for such care and services under subparagraph (A) of such*
16 *paragraph or under paragraph (1) of such subsection.*

17 “(4) *The recipient of an internship under this section*
18 *may receive an allowance under section 3108 of this title*
19 *if such recipient is entitled to such an allowance.*

20 “(d) *DURATION.—No internship under this section*
21 *shall exceed 12 months in duration.*

22 “(e) *OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall notify each par-*
23 *ticipant in a rehabilitation program under chapter 31 of*
24 *this title of the internship program under this section.”.*

1 (b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—*The table of sections at*
 2 *the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after*
 3 *the item relating to section 711 the following new item:*

“712. Internship program.”.

4 **SEC. 21. PROMOTING JOBS FOR VETERANS THROUGH THE**
 5 **USE OF SOLE SOURCE CONTRACTS BY DE-**
 6 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR PUR-**
 7 **POSES OF MEETING THE CONTRACTING**
 8 **GOALS AND PREFERENCES OF THE DEPART-**
 9 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR SMALL**
 10 **BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CON-**
 11 **TROLLED BY VETERANS.**

12 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Section 8127(c) is amended by*
 13 *striking “may” and inserting “shall”.*

14 (b) *DEADLINE FOR INTERIM POLICY GUIDANCE.*—*By*
 15 *not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of*
 16 *this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall issue in-*
 17 *terim policy guidance to carry out the amendment made*
 18 *by subsection (a).*

19 **SEC. 22. VETERANS ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT**
 20 **SUMMIT.**

21 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Subchapter II of chapter 81 is*
 22 *amended by adding at the end the following new section:*

1 **“§ 8129. Veterans entrepreneurial development sum-**
 2 **mit**

3 “(a) *VETERANS ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT*
 4 *SUMMIT.*—*The Secretary may hold an event, once every*
 5 *year, to provide networking opportunities, outreach, edu-*
 6 *cation, training, and support to small business concerns*
 7 *owned and controlled by veterans, veterans service organiza-*
 8 *tions, and other entities as determined appropriate by the*
 9 *Secretary.*

10 “(b) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—*There is*
 11 *authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection*
 12 *\$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2011 and 2021.”.*

13 (b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—*The table of sections at*
 14 *the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the*
 15 *end of the items relating to subchapter II the following:*

“8129. *Veterans entrepreneurial development summit.*”.

16 **SEC. 23. INCREASE IN THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF SPE-**
 17 **CIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE AU-**
 18 **THORIZED TO BE PROVIDED BY THE SEC-**
 19 **RETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

20 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Section 2102 is amended—*

21 (1) *in subsection (b)(2), by striking “\$12,000”*
 22 *and inserting “\$13,756”; and*

23 (2) *in subsection (d)—*

24 (A) *in paragraph (1), by striking “\$60,000”*
 25 *and inserting “\$65,780”; and*

1 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking
2 “\$12,000” and inserting “\$13,756”.

3 (b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendments made by sub-
4 section (a) shall apply with respect to assistance furnished
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

6 **SEC. 24. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HOUSING**
7 **LOANS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ENERGY EFFI-**
8 **CIENT DWELLINGS.**

9 (a) *LOANS AUTHORIZED.*—Section 3710(d) is amend-
10 ed—

11 (1) in paragraph (1)—

12 (A) by striking “The Secretary” and insert-
13 ing “(A) The Secretary”;

14 (B) by striking “for the acquisition of” and
15 all that follows through the end and inserting
16 “for any of the following purposes:”;

17 (C) by adding at the end the following new
18 clauses:

19 “(i) The acquisition of an existing dwelling and
20 the cost of making energy efficiency improvements to
21 the dwelling.

22 “(ii) The construction of a new dwelling and the
23 cost of making energy efficiency improvements to the
24 dwelling.

1 “(iii) *Energy efficiency improvements to a dwell-*
2 *ing owned and occupied by a veteran.*”; and

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

5 “(B) *Except as otherwise provided in this subsection,*
6 *a loan may be guaranteed under this subsection only if it*
7 *meets the requirements of this chapter.*

8 “(C) *The Secretary shall determine appropriate energy*
9 *efficiency standards for purposes of this subsection and*
10 *shall require that dwellings purchased, constructed, or im-*
11 *proved using a loan guaranteed under this subsection meet*
12 *such standards.*”; and

13 *(2) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraphs*
14 *(A) and (B) and inserting the following new subpara-*
15 *graphs (A) and (B):*

16 “(A) *five percent of the total established value of*
17 *the property, dwelling, and improvements; or*

18 “(B) *\$6,000, or a higher amount specifically*
19 *provided by the Secretary.*”.

20 **(b) GUIDANCE.**—*Not later than 180 days after the date*
21 *of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue guid-*
22 *ance on appraising the value of energy efficiency improve-*
23 *ments for purposes of section 3710(d) of title 38, United*
24 *States Code, as amended by this Act.*

25 **(c) REGULATIONS.**—

1 (1) *INTERIM POLICY GUIDANCE.*—Not later than
2 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
3 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prescribe in-
4 terim policy guidance on energy efficiency audits and
5 the conditions under which the performance of such
6 audits may be included in the amount guaranteed by
7 the Secretary under section 3710(d) of title 38,
8 United States Code, as amended by subsection (a).

9 (2) *REGULATIONS.*—Not later than one year
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
11 retary shall prescribe regulations to carry out the
12 amendments made by subsection (a).

13 (3) *ENERGY EFFICIENCY AUDIT DEFINED.*—For
14 purposes of this subsection, the term “energy effi-
15 ciency audit” means a measurement of the effects of
16 an improvement made to a dwelling for the purpose
17 of reducing energy consumption or increasing energy
18 efficiency that is carried out by a certified profes-
19 sional auditor, as determined by the Secretary.

20 (d) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendments made by
21 subsections (a) and (b) shall apply with respect to a loan
22 secured on or after January 1, 2011.

1 **SEC. 25. PILOT PROGRAM ON SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUS-**
2 **ING ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS RESIDING**
3 **TEMPORARILY IN HOUSING OWNED BY A FAM-**
4 **ILY MEMBER.**

5 (a) *TREATMENT OF CERTAIN LIMITATIONS.*—*Notwith-*
6 *standing subsection (d) of section 2102 of title 38, United*
7 *States Code, and subject to subsection (b), a grant under*
8 *section 2102A of such title shall not count toward the dollar*
9 *amount limitations specified in that subsection.*

10 (b) *TERMINATION.*—*Subsection (a) shall apply only to*
11 *the first 25 grants made during fiscal year 2011.*

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.”.

Union Calendar No. 366

11TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5360

[Report No. 111-626]

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the standard of visual acuity required for eligibility for specially adapted housing assistance provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2010

Reported with amendments, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed