

**Calendar No. 557**111<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION**S. 3325****[Report No. 111-286]**

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the waiver of the collection of copayments for telehealth and telemedicine visits of veterans, and for other purposes.

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**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES**

MAY 6, 2010

Mr. BEGICH (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. TESTER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

SEPTEMBER 2, 2010

Reported under authority of the order of the Senate of August 5, 2010, by  
Mr. AKAKA, with an amendment and an amendment to the title

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

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**A BILL**

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the waiver of the collection of copayments for telehealth and telemedicine visits of veterans, and for other purposes.

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

1 **SECTION 1. AUTHORITY TO WAIVE COLLECTION OF COPAY-**  
 2 **MENTS FOR TELEHEALTH AND TELEMEDI-**  
 3 **CINE VISITS OF VETERANS.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subchapter III of chapter 17 of  
 5 title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after  
 6 section 1722A the following new section:

7 **“§ 1722B. Copayments: waiver of collection of copay-**  
 8 **ments for telehealth and telemedicine**  
 9 **visits of veterans**

10 “The Secretary may waive the imposition or collec-  
 11 tion of copayments for telehealth and telemedicine visits  
 12 of veterans under the laws administered by the Sec-  
 13 retary.”.

14 (b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections  
 15 at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended  
 16 by inserting after the item relating to section 1722A the  
 17 following new item:

“1722B. Copayments: waiver of collection of copayments for telehealth and tele-  
 medicine visits of veterans.”.

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

19 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—*This Act may be cited as the “Vet-*  
 20 *erans Telehealth and Other Care Improvements Act of*  
 21 *2010”.*

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

*Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.*

*TITLE I—QUALITY OF CARE AND ACCESS MATTERS*

- Sec. 101. Waiver of collection of copayments for telehealth and telemedicine visits of veterans.*
- Sec. 102. Program of outreach to veterans.*
- Sec. 103. Annual report on low volume procedures involving use of radioactive isotopes at Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities.*
- Sec. 104. Use of radioactive isotopes at Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals.*
- Sec. 105. Requirements relating to contracts for the provision of medical services.*
- Sec. 106. Conversion of multifamily transitional housing loan program to loan issuance program.*
- Sec. 107. Report on establishment of a Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center or Polytrauma Network Site of the Department of Veterans Affairs in the northern Rockies or Dakotas.*
- Sec. 108. One-stop Internet website for information on benefits, resources, services, and opportunities for veterans and their families and caregivers.*

*TITLE II—CONSTRUCTION AND NAMING MATTERS*

- Sec. 201. Authorization for fiscal year 2011 major medical facility construction project previously appropriated but not authorized.*
- Sec. 202. Additional authorization for a 2007 major medical facility construction project previously authorized.*
- Sec. 203. Authorization of fiscal year 2011 major medical facility leases.*
- Sec. 204. Authorization of appropriations.*
- Sec. 205. Report on use of energy efficient technologies and best practices in Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities.*
- Sec. 206. Designation of George H. O'Brien, Jr., Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.*
- Sec. 207. Requirement that bid savings on major medical facility projects of Department of Veterans Affairs be used for other major medical facility construction projects of the Department.*

1 ***TITLE I—QUALITY OF CARE AND***  
 2 ***ACCESS MATTERS***

3 ***SEC. 101. WAIVER OF COLLECTION OF COPAYMENTS FOR***  
 4 ***TELEHEALTH AND TELEMEDICINE VISITS OF***  
 5 ***VETERANS.***

6 (a) *WAIVER.*—

7 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Subchapter III of chapter 17*  
 8 *of title 38, United States Code, is amended by insert-*  
 9 *ing after section 1722A the following new section:*

1 **“§ 1722B. Copayments: waiver of collection of copay-**  
 2 **ments for telehealth and telemedicine vis-**  
 3 **its of veterans**

4 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall waive the im-*  
 5 *position or collection of copayments for telehealth and tele-*  
 6 *medicine visits of veterans under the laws administered by*  
 7 *the Secretary.*

8 “(b) *SUNSET.*—*The requirement under subsection (a)*  
 9 *shall expire on the date that is 5 years after the date of*  
 10 *the enactment of this section.*”.

11 (2) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—*The table of sec-*  
 12 *tions at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is*  
 13 *amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-*  
 14 *tion 1722A the following new item:*

*“1722B. Copayments: waiver of collection of copayments for telehealth and tele-*  
*medicine visits of veterans.”.*

15 (b) *REPORT.*—

16 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than five years after*  
 17 *the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of*  
 18 *Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on*  
 19 *the waiver of copayments under section 1722B of such*  
 20 *title, as added by subsection (a).*

21 (2) *ELEMENTS.*—*The report required by para-*  
 22 *graph (1) shall include the following:*

23 (A) *An assessment of whether waivers de-*  
 24 *scribed in paragraph (1) have resulted in in-*

1           *creased utilization of telehealth and telemedicine*  
2           *visits of veterans under the laws administered by*  
3           *the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.*

4           *(B) A description of the expenses or cost-*  
5           *savings, as the case may be, realized by the De-*  
6           *partment of Veterans Affairs as a result of such*  
7           *waivers.*

8   **SEC. 102. PROGRAM OF OUTREACH TO VETERANS.**

9           *(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Veterans*  
10          *Affairs shall establish a program of outreach to veterans*  
11          *for the purpose described in subsection (b).*

12          *(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose described in this sub-*  
13          *section is to increase the following:*

14                  *(1) The access and use by veterans of Federal,*  
15                  *State, and local programs providing compensation*  
16                  *and other benefits for service in the Armed Forces.*

17                  *(2) Awareness of such programs by veterans and*  
18                  *their eligibility for such programs.*

19          *(c) DURATION.—The program required by subsection*  
20          *(a) shall be carried out during the five-year period begin-*  
21          *ning on the date of the enactment of this Act.*

22          *(d) AGREEMENTS TO CARRY OUT PROJECTS AND AC-*  
23          *TIVITIES.—*

24                  *(1) AGREEMENTS WITH FEDERAL AND STATE*  
25                  *AGENCIES.—In carrying out the program required by*

1        *subsection (a), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may*  
2        *enter into agreements with other Federal and State*  
3        *agencies to carry out projects under the jurisdiction*  
4        *of such agencies to further the purpose described in*  
5        *subsection (b).*

6                (2) *AGREEMENTS WITH APPLICABLE AUTHORI-*  
7        *TIES AND COMMISSIONS.—In carrying out the pro-*  
8        *gram required by subsection (a), the Secretary may*  
9        *enter into agreements with applicable authorities and*  
10        *commissions to provide technical assistance, award*  
11        *grants, enter into contracts, or otherwise provide*  
12        *amounts to persons or entities for projects and activi-*  
13        *ties that—*

14                    (A) *increase outreach to, awareness by, and*  
15                    *use by veterans of programs described in sub-*  
16                    *section (b)(1);*

17                    (B) *provide incentives for State and local*  
18                    *governments and veterans service organizations*  
19                    *to assist veterans in utilizing facilities and re-*  
20                    *sources available to veterans through the Depart-*  
21                    *ment of Veterans Affairs;*

22                    (C) *provide incentives for State and local*  
23                    *governments and veterans service organizations*  
24                    *to assist veterans in utilizing resources available*

1           *through government and veterans service organi-*  
2           *zations for veterans;*

3           *(D) educate communities and State and*  
4           *local governments about the employment rights*  
5           *of veterans, including the employment and reem-*  
6           *ployment of members of the uniformed services*  
7           *under chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code;*

8           *(E) provide technical assistance to busi-*  
9           *nesses owned by veterans; and*

10           *(F) encourage and assist nonprofit organi-*  
11           *zations, businesses, and institutions of higher*  
12           *education to carry out programs of assistance de-*  
13           *signed for veterans.*

14           *(3) APPLICABLE AUTHORITIES AND COMMIS-*  
15           *SIONS.—For purposes of the program required by sub-*  
16           *section (a), the applicable authorities and commis-*  
17           *sions are the following:*

18           *(A) The Appalachian Regional Commission,*  
19           *established under section 14301(a) of title 40,*  
20           *United States Code.*

21           *(B) The Delta Regional Authority, estab-*  
22           *lished under section 382B(a) of the Consolidated*  
23           *Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.*  
24           *2009aa-1(a)).*

1           (C) *The Denali Commission, established*  
2           *under section 303 of the Denali Commission Act*  
3           *of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note).*

4           (D) *The Northern Great Plains Regional*  
5           *Authority, established under section 383B(a) of*  
6           *the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development*  
7           *Act (7 U.S.C. 2009bb-1(a)).*

8           (E) *The Southeast Crescent Regional Com-*  
9           *mission, the Southwest Border Regional Com-*  
10          *mission, and the Northern Border Regional Com-*  
11          *mission established under section 15301(a) of*  
12          *title 40, United States Code.*

13          (F) *Entities described in subparagraph (G)*  
14          *that serve Native Americans, Alaska Natives, or*  
15          *native Hawaiians (as such terms are defined in*  
16          *section 3765 of title 38, United States Code).*

17          (G) *Commissions and development boards*  
18          *that are—*

19               (i) *not chartered by the Federal Gov-*  
20               *ernment;*

21               (ii) *selected by the Secretary for pur-*  
22               *poses of the program; and*

23               (iii) *located in areas that present ex-*  
24               *traordinary challenges to veterans, as deter-*



1                    *mined by the Secretary, including the fol-*  
2                    *lowing:*

3                    *(I) Areas in severe economic dis-*  
4                    *tress.*

5                    *(II) Areas with underdeveloped*  
6                    *infrastructure.*

7                    *(III) Areas with unusual geo-*  
8                    *graphic characteristics, such as separa-*  
9                    *tion from the mainland.*

10            *(e) INFORMATION, ADVICE, AND TECHNICAL ASSIST-*  
11 *ANCE.—In carrying out the program required by subsection*  
12 *(a), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may provide, or con-*  
13 *tract with public or private organizations to provide, infor-*  
14 *mation, advice, and technical assistance to nonprofit orga-*  
15 *nizations that provide services to communities in order to*  
16 *increase the number of veterans receiving such services.*

17            *(f) COORDINATION WITH PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED*  
18 *PILOT PROGRAM ON USE OF COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANI-*  
19 *ZATIONS AND LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT ENTITIES*  
20 *FOR OUTREACH.—The Secretary may carry out the pro-*  
21 *gram required by subsection (a) in coordination with the*  
22 *pilot program required by section 506(a) of the Caregivers*  
23 *and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public*  
24 *Law 111–163; 124 Stat. 1160; 38 U.S.C. 523 note).*

1           (g) *REPORT ON OUTREACH ACTIVITIES OF DEPART-*  
2 *MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.*—

3           (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than four years  
4 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
5 retary shall submit to Congress a comprehensive re-  
6 port on the activities of the Department of Veterans  
7 Affairs regarding outreach to veterans.

8           (2) *ELEMENTS.*—The report required by para-  
9 graph (1) shall include the following:

10           (A) A description of all of the activities of  
11 the Department regarding outreach to veterans  
12 carried out since the date of the enactment of  
13 this Act, including the activities of the Depart-  
14 ment carried out under the program required by  
15 subsection (a).

16           (B) An assessment of the effectiveness of the  
17 activities described in subparagraph (A).

18           (h) *VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION DEFINED.*—In  
19 this section, the term “veterans service organization” means  
20 any organization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans  
21 Affairs for the representation of veterans under section 5902  
22 of title 38, United States Code.

23           (i) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—There are  
24 authorized to be appropriated to carry out the program re-  
25 quired by subsection (a)—

- 1           (1) \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; and  
2           (2) \$35,000,000 for the period of fiscal years  
3           2012 through 2016.

4 **SEC. 103. ANNUAL REPORT ON LOW VOLUME PROCEDURES**  
5                   **INVOLVING USE OF RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPES**  
6                   **AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
7                   **MEDICAL FACILITIES.**

8           (a) *ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED.*—Not later than 270  
9           days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annu-  
10           ally thereafter through 2013, the Secretary of Veterans Af-  
11           fairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of  
12           the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the  
13           House of Representatives a report on the low volume proce-  
14           dures involving the use of radioactive isotopes carried out  
15           at each medical facility of the Department of Veterans Af-  
16           fairs in the year for which such report is submitted.

17           (b) *ELEMENTS.*—Each report submitted to Congress  
18           under subsection (a) shall include the following:

19                   (1) *The evaluation and the findings of the Sec-*  
20                   *retary with respect to the low volume procedures in-*  
21                   *volving the use of radioactive isotopes carried out at*  
22                   *each medical facility of the Department.*

23                   (2) *A description of the actions taken by the Sec-*  
24                   *retary to incorporate consideration of low-volume pro-*

1        *cedures involving the use of radioactive isotopes in fa-*  
2        *cility level quality assurance plans.*

3        *(c) LOW VOLUME PROCEDURES.—*

4                *(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the report re-*  
5        *quired by this section, the Secretary shall define the*  
6        *term “low volume procedure” in accordance with this*  
7        *subsection.*

8                *(2) THRESHOLD.—In defining the term “low vol-*  
9        *ume procedure”, the Secretary shall establish a*  
10        *threshold for each type of procedure involving radio-*  
11        *active isotopes carried out at a medical facility of the*  
12        *Department whereby if the number of procedures of a*  
13        *type carried out at a medical facility is less than the*  
14        *threshold, the type of procedure is considered low vol-*  
15        *ume at that facility.*

16        **SEC. 104. USE OF RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPES AT DEPARTMENT**  
17                        **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HOSPITALS.**

18                *(a) TRAINING REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Veterans*  
19        *Affairs shall ensure that all employees, including employees*  
20        *employed under a contract entered into with a non-govern-*  
21        *ment entity, who handle or perform procedures utilizing ra-*  
22        *dioactive isotopes at a Department of Veterans Affairs hos-*  
23        *pital receive appropriate training on what constitutes a*  
24        *medical event, as defined in regulations prescribed by the*

1 *Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and when and to whom*  
 2 *a medical event should be reported.*

3       (b) *FAILURE TO PROVIDE TRAINING.*—*If the Secretary*  
 4 *determines that a Department hospital has failed to provide*  
 5 *the training required by subsection (a) to an employee de-*  
 6 *scribed in that subsection, the Secretary shall ensure that*  
 7 *radioactive isotopes are not used by that employee at that*  
 8 *hospital until such training is provided to that employee.*

9 **SEC. 105. REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO CONTRACTS FOR**  
 10 **THE PROVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES.**

11       (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Subchapter I of chapter 17 of title*  
 12 *38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after sec-*  
 13 *tion 1703 the following new section:*

14 **“§ 1703A. Oversight of medical services provided by**  
 15 **contractors**

16       “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—(1) *The Secretary shall ensure*  
 17 *that the quality assessment program of the Department in-*  
 18 *cludes appropriate oversight of medical services provided*  
 19 *pursuant to a contract entered into by the Secretary with*  
 20 *a non-government entity.*

21       “(2) *Oversight of a medical service required by para-*  
 22 *graph (1) shall include, as appropriate to the service, the*  
 23 *following:*

24               “(A) *Periodic peer reviews of such service.*

1           “(B) *Periodic written evaluations of the over-*  
 2           *sight provided by the supervisor or manager of the in-*  
 3           *dividual providing the service.*

4           “(C) *Such other evaluations as the Secretary de-*  
 5           *termines are appropriate.*

6           “(3) *The Secretary shall ensure that sufficient data is*  
 7           *collected and analyzed by an employee of the Department*  
 8           *in order to evaluate the quality of medical services provided*  
 9           *pursuant to a contract entered into by the Secretary with*  
 10          *a non-government entity.*

11          “(b) *REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO EXTENSION OF*  
 12          *CERTAIN CONTRACTS.—Before any contracting officer of*  
 13          *the Department may extend or renew any contract entered*  
 14          *into by the Secretary with a non-government entity for the*  
 15          *provision of medical services, the contracting officer shall*  
 16          *review and take into consideration the results of the evalua-*  
 17          *tions carried out under subsection (a).”.*

18          “(b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at*  
 19          *the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended by in-*  
 20          *serting after the item relating to section 1703 the following*  
 21          *new item:*

          “1703A. *Oversight of medical services provided by contractors.”.*

22          “(c) *EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) of section*  
 23          *1703A of such title, as added by subsection (a), shall take*  
 24          *effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and subsection*

1 *(b) of such section shall take effect on the date that is 270*  
 2 *days after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

3 **SEC. 106. CONVERSION OF MULTIFAMILY TRANSITIONAL**  
 4 **HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM TO LOAN**  
 5 **ISSUANCE PROGRAM.**

6 *(a) AUTHORITY TO ISSUE LOANS.—*

7 *(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2051 of title 38,*  
 8 *United States Code, is amended—*

9 *(A) in subsection (a)—*

10 *(i) by striking “The” and inserting*

11 *“(1) The”; and*

12 *(ii) by adding at the end the following*  
 13 *new paragraph:*

14 *“(2) The Secretary shall, utilizing funds available in*  
 15 *the Multifamily Transitional Housing Loan Program Re-*  
 16 *volving Fund under section 2055 of this title, issue not more*  
 17 *than five loans that meet the requirements of this sub-*  
 18 *chapter.”;*

19 *(B) in subsection (b)—*

20 *(i) in paragraph (1), by striking*

21 *“under subsection (a)” and inserting*

22 *“under subsection (a)(1)”;*

23 *(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking*

24 *“under subsection (a)” and inserting*

25 *“under subsection (a)(1)”;* and

1                   (iii) in paragraph (3), by inserting  
2                   “or issued” after “guaranteed”;

3                   (C) in subsection (c), by inserting “or  
4                   issued” after “guaranteed”; and

5                   (D) in subsection (g), by inserting “or  
6                   issued” after “guaranteed”.

7                   (2) *AUTHORITY TO DELEGATE APPROVAL AU-*  
8                   *THORITY.*—Subsection (c) of such section, as amended  
9                   by paragraph (1)(C) of this subsection, is amended—

10                   (A) by striking “A loan” and inserting “(1)  
11                   A loan”; and

12                   (B) by adding at the end the following new  
13                   paragraphs:

14                   “(2) The Secretary may delegate approval under para-  
15                   graph (1) to a State or local government entity.

16                   “(3) Approval activity of a State or local government  
17                   entity under paragraph (2) shall be subject to the super-  
18                   vision of the Secretary.”.

19                   (3) *NO LIMITATION ON SIZE OF MULTIFAMILY*  
20                   *TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROJECTS.*—Such section is  
21                   further amended by adding at the end the following  
22                   new subsection:

23                   “(h) Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to  
24                   provide for a minimum or maximum size of a multifamily



1 *transitional housing project that may be financed with a*  
 2 *loan under this subchapter.”.*

3           (4) *SUNSET OF AUTHORITY TO ISSUE LOAN*  
 4 *GUARANTEES.—Such section is further amended by*  
 5 *adding at the end the following new subsection:*

6           “(i) *The Secretary may not guarantee under sub-*  
 7 *section (a)(1) any loan that is closed after the date of the*  
 8 *enactment of this subsection. The termination by this sub-*  
 9 *section of the authority to guarantee loans under this sub-*  
 10 *section shall not affect the validity of any loan guaranteed*  
 11 *under this subchapter before the date of the enactment of*  
 12 *this subsection and is in force on that date.”.*

13           (5) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—*

14           (A) *Section 2052(d) of such title is amended*  
 15 *by inserting “or issue” after “whether to guar-*  
 16 *antee”.*

17           (B) *Section 2053(a) of such title is amended*  
 18 *by inserting “or issued” after “is guaranteed”.*

19           (C) *Section 2054(a) of such title is amend-*  
 20 *ed—*

21           (i) *in the first sentence, by inserting*  
 22 *“or issued” after “guaranteed”; and*

23           (ii) *in the last sentence, by inserting*  
 24 *“or loan” after “guarantee”.*

25           (6) *CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—*

1           (A) *The heading of subchapter VI of chapter*  
 2           *20 of such title is amended by striking “LOAN*  
 3           *GUARANTEE FOR”.*

4           (B) *The table of sections at the beginning of*  
 5           *such chapter is amended by striking the item re-*  
 6           *lating to subchapter VI and inserting the fol-*  
 7           *lowing new item:*

          “SUBCHAPTER VI—MULTIFAMILY TRANSITIONAL HOUSING”.

8           (b) *MULTIFAMILY TRANSITIONAL HOUSING LOAN PRO-*  
 9           *GRAM REVOLVING FUND.—*

10           (1) *IN GENERAL.—Subchapter VI of chapter 20*  
 11           *of such title is amended by adding at the end the fol-*  
 12           *lowing new section:*

13           **“§2055. Multifamily Transitional Housing Loan Pro-**  
 14           **gram Revolving Fund**

15           “(a) *ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the*  
 16           *Treasury of the United States a revolving fund known as*  
 17           *the ‘Department of Veterans Affairs Multifamily Transi-*  
 18           *tional Housing Loan Program Revolving Fund’ (in this*  
 19           *section referred to as the ‘Fund’).*

20           “(b) *ELEMENTS.—There shall be deposited in the Fund*  
 21           *the following, which shall constitute the assets of the Fund:*

22           “(1) *Amounts paid into the Fund under any*  
 23           *provision of law or regulation established by the Sec-*  
 24           *retary imposing fees on persons or entities issued a*  
 25           *loan under this subchapter.*

1           “(2) *All other amounts received by the Secretary*  
2           *incident to operations relating to the issuance of loans*  
3           *under this subchapter, including—*

4                   “(A) *collections of principal and interest on*  
5                   *loans issued by the Secretary under this sub-*  
6                   *chapter;*

7                   “(B) *proceeds from the sale, rental, use, or*  
8                   *other disposition of property acquired under this*  
9                   *subchapter; and*

10                   “(C) *penalties collected pursuant to this*  
11                   *subchapter.*

12           “(3) *Amounts appropriated or otherwise made*  
13           *available before the date of the enactment of this sec-*  
14           *tion for purposes of activities under this subchapter,*  
15           *including amounts appropriated for such purposes*  
16           *under title I of the Department of Veterans Affairs*  
17           *and Housing and Urban Development, and Inde-*  
18           *pendent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000 (Public*  
19           *Law 106–74; 113 Stat. 1049).*

20           “(c) *USE OF FUNDS.—The Fund shall be available to*  
21           *the Secretary, without fiscal year limitation, for all oper-*  
22           *ations relating to the issuance of loans under this sub-*  
23           *chapter, consistent with the Federal Credit Reform Act of*  
24           *1990 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).”.*

1           (2) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—*The table of sec-*  
 2           *tions at the beginning of chapter 20 of such title is*  
 3           *amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-*  
 4           *tion 2054 the following new item:*

*“2055. Multifamily Transitional Housing Loan Program Revolving Fund.”.*

5           (c) *CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE*  
 6           *TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF LOANS.*—*Subsection (a)(6) of*  
 7           *section 2052 of such title is amended by inserting “includ-*  
 8           *ing with respect to forbearance, deferral, and loan forgive-*  
 9           *ness,” after “determines are reasonable.”.*

10          (d) *CLARIFICATION OF TYPES OF SPACES THAT MAY*  
 11          *BE INCLUDED IN COVERED MULTIFAMILY TRANSITIONAL*  
 12          *HOUSING PROJECTS.*—*Subsection (c)(1) of such section*  
 13          *2052 is amended by striking “or job training programs”*  
 14          *and inserting “job training programs, other types of resi-*  
 15          *dential units, or other uses that the Secretary considers nec-*  
 16          *essary for the sustainability of the project”.*

17          (e) *LOAN DEFAULTS.*—*Section 2053 of such title is*  
 18          *amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:*

19           *“(c) The Secretary may impose such penalties or re-*  
 20           *quire such collateral as the Secretary considers necessary—*

21           *“(1) to discourage default on a loan issued under*  
 22           *this subchapter; or*

23           *“(2) to mitigate harm to the Department from*  
 24           *default on a loan issued under this subchapter.*

1       “(d) *The Secretary shall administer any property com-*  
 2 *ing under the jurisdiction of the Secretary by reason of de-*  
 3 *fault on a loan issued or guaranteed under this subchapter*  
 4 *in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary*  
 5 *for that purpose. Such administration of property may in-*  
 6 *clude selling, renting, or otherwise disposing of property as*  
 7 *the Secretary considers appropriate.”.*

8       (f) *PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF VETERANS.—*

9           (1) *IN GENERAL.—Subchapter VI of chapter 20*  
 10 *of such title, as amended by subsection (b), is further*  
 11 *amended by adding at the end the following new sec-*  
 12 *tion:*

13 **“§ 2056. Preferential treatment of veterans**

14       *“No provision of Federal or State law may prohibit*  
 15 *a multifamily transitional housing project described in sec-*  
 16 *tion 2052(b) of this title from offering preferential treat-*  
 17 *ment to veterans.”.*

18           (2) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-*  
 19 *tions at the beginning of such chapter, as amended by*  
 20 *subsection (b), is further amended by adding at the*  
 21 *end the following new item:*

*“2056. Preferential treatment of veterans.”.*

22       (g) *TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—Section 2052 of such*  
 23 *title is amended—*

1           (1) *in subsection (b)(2), by striking “counsel-*  
 2           *ling” both places it appears and inserting “coun-*  
 3           *seling”;* and

4           (2) *in subsection (d)(2), by striking “, as as-*  
 5           *essed under section 107 of Public Law 102–405”.*

6 **SEC. 107. REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A POLYTRAUMA**  
 7                   **REHABILITATION CENTER OR POLYTRAUMA**  
 8                   **NETWORK SITE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF**  
 9                   **VETERANS AFFAIRS IN THE NORTHERN**  
 10                  **ROCKIES OR DAKOTAS.**

11           (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 180 days after the*  
 12 *date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans*  
 13 *Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the feasibility*  
 14 *and advisability of establishing a Polytrauma Rehabilita-*  
 15 *tion Center or Polytrauma Network Site for the Department*  
 16 *of Veterans Affairs in the northern Rockies or the Dakotas.*  
 17 *One of the locations evaluated as a potential location for*  
 18 *the Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center or Polytrauma Net-*  
 19 *work Site, as the case may be, shall be the Fort Harrison*  
 20 *Department of Veterans Affairs hospital in Lewis and Clark*  
 21 *County, Montana.*

22           (b) *REQUIREMENTS.*—*The report required by sub-*  
 23 *section (a) shall include the following:*

24           (1) *An assessment of the adequacy of existing*  
 25           *Department of Veterans Affairs facilities in the north-*

1        *ern Rockies and the Dakotas to address matters that*  
2        *are otherwise addressed by Polytrauma Rehabilitation*  
3        *Centers and Polytrauma Network Sites.*

4            (2) *A comparative assessment of the effectiveness*  
5        *of rehabilitation programs for individuals with trau-*  
6        *matic brain injuries in urban areas with the effective-*  
7        *ness of such programs for individuals with traumatic*  
8        *brain injuries in rural and frontier communities.*

9            (3) *An assessment whether the low cost of living*  
10        *in the northern Rockies and the Dakotas could reduce*  
11        *the financial stress faced by veterans receiving care*  
12        *for traumatic brain injury and their families and*  
13        *thereby improve the effectiveness of such care.*

14            (4) *An assessment whether therapies that can*  
15        *prevent or remediate the development of secondary*  
16        *neurologic conditions related to traumatic brain in-*  
17        *jury can be interrupted by stress caused by living in*  
18        *an urban area.*

19        (c) *CONSULTATION.*—*The Secretary shall consult with*  
20        *appropriate State and local government agencies in the*  
21        *northern Rockies and the Dakotas in preparing the report*  
22        *required subsection (a).*

1 **SEC. 108. ONE-STOP INTERNET WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION**  
2 **ON BENEFITS, RESOURCES, SERVICES, AND**  
3 **OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS AND THEIR**  
4 **FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS.**

5 (a) *ONE-STOP INTERNET WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION*  
6 *ON BENEFITS, RESOURCES, SERVICES, AND OPPORTUNI-*  
7 *TIES FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND CARE-*  
8 *GIVERS.—*

9 (1) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-*  
10 *fairs may establish and maintain an interactive*  
11 *Internet website that provides information on the ben-*  
12 *efits, resources, services, and opportunities described*  
13 *in subsection (b). The Secretary may enter into a*  
14 *contract with an appropriate Federal or private sec-*  
15 *tor entity for purposes of establishing or maintaining*  
16 *the website.*

17 (2) *NATURE OF WEBSITE.—The website shall—*  
18 (A) *serve to consolidate, expand on, and im-*  
19 *prove information and links from other existing*  
20 *Internet websites relating to the benefits, re-*  
21 *sources, services, and opportunities described in*  
22 *subsection (b), and may include such other infor-*  
23 *mation and links on such benefits, resources,*  
24 *services, and opportunities as the Secretary con-*  
25 *siders appropriate; and*



1           (B) integrate dynamic Internet features and  
2           virtual interface tools to provide veterans a per-  
3           sonalized, interactive, and user-centered Internet  
4           experience and increase interoperability and fa-  
5           cilitate collaborative information sharing.

6           (3) UTILIZATION OF EXISTING WEBSITE IN ES-  
7           TABLISHMENT.—In establishing the website, the Sec-  
8           retary may utilize an existing Internet website, such  
9           as the National Resource Directory for wounded vet-  
10          erans, as the basis for the website, in order to avoid  
11          unnecessary duplication of effort.

12          (4) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of Veterans  
13          Affairs shall carry out activities under this subsection  
14          in consultation with the following:

15               (A) The Secretary of Defense.

16               (B) The Secretary of Labor.

17               (C) The Secretary of Education.

18               (D) The Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

19               (E) The Commissioner of Social Security.

20               (F) The Administrator of the Small Busi-  
21               ness Administration.

22               (G) Any other Federal officials that the Sec-  
23               retary of Veterans Affairs considers appropriate  
24               for purposes of this section.

1           (H) *Appropriate advisory committees on*  
2           *veterans matters.*

3           (I) *Other representatives, individuals, and*  
4           *organizations specified in section 6302(c) of title*  
5           *38, United States Code.*

6           (b) *BENEFITS, RESOURCES, SERVICES, AND OPPORTU-*  
7           *NITIES.—The benefits, resources, services, and opportunities*  
8           *described in this subsection are benefits, resources, services,*  
9           *and opportunities as follows:*

10           (1) *Veterans benefits provided by or through the*  
11           *Department of Veterans Affairs.*

12           (2) *Veterans benefits provided by or through the*  
13           *Department of Labor, including employment and re-*  
14           *employment benefits.*

15           (3) *Tax benefits.*

16           (4) *Social security benefits.*

17           (5) *Veterans benefits provided by or through the*  
18           *Small Business Administration.*

19           (6) *Resources, services, and opportunities such*  
20           *as—*

21           (A) *resources for families, caregivers, edu-*  
22           *cational professionals, mental health profes-*  
23           *sionals, and other professionals that provide for*  
24           *veterans;*

1           (B) resources on child care, home care,  
2           stress management, mental health care, and vet-  
3           erans service organizations (including website  
4           links to organization locators and claims assist-  
5           ance); and

6           (C) information and links on State and  
7           local resources, discounts available to veterans,  
8           volunteer opportunities available to veterans,  
9           and community events.

10          (7) Assistance in applying for and receiving ben-  
11          efits and resources under paragraphs (1) through (6).

12          (8) Resources on peer-to-peer discussions, work-  
13          shops, and other interactive services for veterans and  
14          their families and caregivers.

15          (9) Information on ride-sharing for appoint-  
16          ments.

17          (10) Memorial notices.

18          (11) Such other benefits, resources, services, op-  
19          portunities, and assistance as the Secretary considers  
20          appropriate for purposes of the website.

21          (c) *INCLUSION OF INFORMATION ON WEBSITE IN BIEN-*  
22          *NIAL REPORTS RELATING TO OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.*—

23                 (1) *BIENNIAL PLAN.*—*The Secretary of Veterans*  
24                 *Affairs shall include in each biennial plan on out-*  
25                 *reach activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs*

1        *under section 6302 of title 38, United States Code, the*  
 2        *plans of the Department for the period covered by*  
 3        *such report for improving and enhancing the Internet*  
 4        *website required by this section to better provide in-*  
 5        *formation on the benefits, resources, services, and op-*  
 6        *portunities described in subsection (b) and to other-*  
 7        *wise enhance the website as a source for information*  
 8        *on such benefits, resources, services, and opportuni-*  
 9        *ties.*

10            (2) *BIENNIAL REPORT.*—*The Secretary shall in-*  
 11        *clude in each biennial report on outreach activities of*  
 12        *the Department under section 6308 of title 38, United*  
 13        *States Code, a description of the manner in which the*  
 14        *Internet website required by this section contributed*  
 15        *to the outreach activities of the Secretary, including*  
 16        *outreach activities under chapter 63 of such title.*

17        **TITLE II—CONSTRUCTION AND**  
 18        **NAMING MATTERS**

19        **SEC. 201. AUTHORIZATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 MAJOR**  
 20            **MEDICAL FACILITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**  
 21            **PREVIOUSLY APPROPRIATED BUT NOT AU-**  
 22            **THORIZED.**

23        *The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out a*  
 24        *major medical facility project in fiscal year 2011 for the*  
 25        *construction of a new medical facility in New Orleans, Lou-*

1 isiana, with the project to be carried out in an amount not  
2 to exceed \$995,000,000.

3 **SEC. 202. ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION FOR A 2007 MAJOR**  
4 **MEDICAL FACILITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**  
5 **PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED.**

6 *The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out a*  
7 *major medical facility project in fiscal year 2011 to make*  
8 *seismic corrections for Buildings 7 and 126 at the Depart-*  
9 *ment of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Long Beach,*  
10 *California, with the project to be carried out in an amount*  
11 *not to exceed \$129,545,000.*

12 **SEC. 203. AUTHORIZATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2011 MAJOR**  
13 **MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES.**

14 *The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the*  
15 *following fiscal year 2011 major medical facility leases at*  
16 *the locations specified, in an amount not to exceed the*  
17 *amount shown for each such location:*

18 (1) *Billings, Montana, Community Based Out-*  
19 *patient Clinic, in an amount not to exceed*  
20 *\$7,149,000.*

21 (2) *Boston, Massachusetts, Outpatient Clinic, in*  
22 *an amount not to exceed \$3,316,000.*

23 (3) *San Diego, California, Community Based*  
24 *Outpatient Clinic, in an amount not to exceed*  
25 *\$21,495,000.*

1           (4) *San Francisco, California, Research Lab, in*  
2           *an amount not to exceed \$10,055,000.*

3           (5) *San Juan, Puerto Rico, Mental Health Fa-*  
4           *cility, in an amount not to exceed \$5,323,000.*

5 **SEC. 204. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6           (a) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR MAJOR*  
7 *MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS.—There is authorized to be*  
8 *appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal*  
9 *year 2011 or the year in which funds are appropriated for*  
10 *the Construction, Major Projects, account \$1,124,545,000*  
11 *for the projects authorized in sections 201 and 202.*

12          (b) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR MAJOR*  
13 *MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES.—There is authorized to be ap-*  
14 *propriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal*  
15 *year 2011 or the year in which funds are appropriated for*  
16 *the Medical Facilities account \$47,338,000 for the leases au-*  
17 *thorized in section 203.*

18          (c) *LIMITATION.—The major medical facility projects*  
19 *authorized in sections 201 and 202 may only be carried*  
20 *out using—*

21               (1) *funds appropriated for fiscal year 2011 pur-*  
22               *suant to the authorization of appropriations in sub-*  
23               *section (a) of this section;*

1           (2) *funds available for Construction, Major*  
2 *Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2011 that*  
3 *remain available for obligation;*

4           (3) *funds available for Construction, Major*  
5 *Projects, for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2011 that*  
6 *remain available for obligation;*

7           (4) *funds appropriated for Construction, Major*  
8 *Projects, for fiscal year 2011 for a category of activity*  
9 *not specific to a project;*

10          (5) *funds appropriated for Construction, Major*  
11 *Projects, for a fiscal year before 2011 for a category*  
12 *of activity not specific to a project; and*

13          (6) *funds appropriated for Construction, Major*  
14 *Projects, for a fiscal year after 2011 for a category of*  
15 *activity not specific to a project.*

16 **SEC. 205. REPORT ON USE OF ENERGY EFFICIENT TECH-**  
17 **NOLOGIES AND BEST PRACTICES IN DEPART-**  
18 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FA-**  
19 **CILITIES.**

20          (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 180 days after the*  
21 *date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans*  
22 *Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the use of en-*  
23 *ergy efficient technologies and best practices in Department*  
24 *of Veterans Affairs medical facilities.*

1           **(b) ELEMENTS.**—*The report required by subsection (a)*  
2 *shall include the following:*

3           (1) *A description of the energy efficient tech-*  
4 *nologies and best practices used by the Department to*  
5 *make Department medical facilities more energy effi-*  
6 *cient.*

7           (2) *An assessment of the energy efficiency of the*  
8 *following features of Department medical facilities:*

9           (A) *Heating, ventilation, and air condi-*  
10 *tioning systems.*

11           (B) *Lighting.*

12           (C) *Elevators.*

13           (D) *Water heating.*

14           (E) *Information technology and electronics.*

15           (F) *Such other features as the Secretary*  
16 *considers energy intensive.*

17           (3) *The status of the compliance of Department*  
18 *medical facilities with provisions of law that are ap-*  
19 *plicable to the energy efficiency of such facilities, as*  
20 *determined by the Secretary.*

21           (4) *A description of the activities carried out by*  
22 *the Office of Construction and Facilities Management*  
23 *of the Department to overhaul current master con-*  
24 *struction specifications and to ensure that standard-*



1        *ized efficiency guidelines are being implemented in all*  
 2        *Department medical facilities.*

3        (c) *COLLABORATION.*—*In preparing the report re-*  
 4        *quired by subsection (a), the Secretary shall collaborate*  
 5        *with private sector experts and industry leaders in the en-*  
 6        *ergy efficiency of medical facilities, including the following:*

7                (1) *The American Society of Heating, Refrigeration,*  
 8                *and Air-Conditioning Engineers.*

9                (2) *The Illuminating Engineering Society of*  
 10                *North America.*

11                (3) *The American Institute of Architects.*

12        **SEC. 206. DESIGNATION OF GEORGE H. O'BRIEN, JR., DE-**  
 13                        **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL**  
 14                        **CENTER.**

15        (a) *DESIGNATION.*—*The Department of Veterans Af-*  
 16        *fairs medical center located in Big Spring, Texas, shall be*  
 17        *known and designated as the “George H. O’Brien, Jr., De-*  
 18        *partment of Veterans Affairs Medical Center”.*

19        (b) *REFERENCES.*—*Any reference in a law, map, regu-*  
 20        *lation, document, paper, or other record of the United*  
 21        *States to the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center*  
 22        *referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference*  
 23        *to the “George H. O’Brien, Jr., Department of Veterans Af-*  
 24        *fairs Medical Center”.*

1 **SEC. 207. REQUIREMENT THAT BID SAVINGS ON MAJOR**  
2 **MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS OF DEPART-**  
3 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BE USED FOR**  
4 **OTHER MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY CON-**  
5 **STRUCTION PROJECTS OF THE DEPARTMENT.**

6 *Section 8104(d) of title 38, United States Code, is*  
7 *amended—*

8 *(1) by striking “In any case” and inserting “(1*  
9 *Except as provided in paragraph (2), in any case”;*  
10 *and*

11 *(2) by adding at the end the following new para-*  
12 *graph:*

13 *“(2) In any fiscal year, unobligated amounts in the*  
14 *Construction, Major Projects account that are a direct re-*  
15 *sult of bid savings from a major medical facility project*  
16 *may only be obligated for other major medical facility*  
17 *projects authorized for that fiscal year or a previous fiscal*  
18 *year.”.*

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to improve the quality of health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, to increase access to health care and benefits provided by the Department, to authorize major medical facility construction projects of the Department, and for other purposes.”.

Calendar No. 557

11<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**S. 3325**

[Report No. 111-286]

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## **A BILL**

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the waiver of the collection of copayments for telehealth and telemedicine visits of veterans, and for other purposes.

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SEPTEMBER 2, 2010

Reported with an amendment and an amendment to the title