

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2327

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a Veterans Economic Opportunity Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 12, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a Veterans Economic Opportunity Administration, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Economic
5 Opportunity Administration Act of 2013”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPOR-**
 2 **TUNITY ADMINISTRATION OF DEPARTMENT**
 3 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ADMINISTRATION.—
 5 Part V of title 38, United States Code, is amended by
 6 adding at the end the following new chapter:

7 **“CHAPTER 80—VETERANS ECONOMIC**
 8 **OPPORTUNITY ADMINISTRATION**

“8001. Organization of Administration.

“8002. Functions of Administration.

9 **“§ 8001. Organization of Administration**

10 “(a) VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ADMINIS-
 11 TRATION.—There is in the Department of Veterans Af-
 12 fairs a Veterans Economic Opportunity Administration.
 13 The primary function of the Veterans Economic Oppor-
 14 tunity Administration is the administration of the pro-
 15 grams of the Department which provide assistance related
 16 to economic opportunity to veterans and their dependents
 17 and survivors.

18 “(b) UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC OPPOR-
 19 TUNITY.—The Veterans Economic Opportunity Adminis-
 20 tration is under the Under Secretary for Veterans Eco-
 21 nomic Opportunity, who is directly responsible to the Sec-
 22 retary for the operations of the Administration.

1 **“§ 8002. Functions of Administration**

2 “The Veterans Economic Opportunity Administra-
3 tion is responsible for the administration of the following
4 programs of the Department:

5 “(1) Vocational rehabilitation and employment
6 programs.

7 “(2) Educational assistance programs.

8 “(3) Veterans’ housing loan and related pro-
9 grams.

10 “(4) Veterans small business programs, includ-
11 ing the program under section 8127 of this title.”.

12 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The tables of chap-
13 ters at the beginning of title 38, and of part V of title
14 38, are each amended by inserting after the item relating
15 to chapter 79 the following new item:

“80. Veterans Economic Opportunity Administration 8001”.

16 **SEC. 3. UNDER SECRETARY FOR VETERANS ECONOMIC OP-
17 PORTUNITY.**

18 (a) UNDER SECRETARY.—Chapter 3 of title 38,
19 United States Code, is amended by inserting after section
20 306 the following new section:

21 **“§ 306A. Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Op-
22 portunity**

23 “(a) UNDER SECRETARY.—There is in the Depart-
24 ment an Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Oppor-
25 tunity, who is appointed by the President, by and with

1 the advice and consent of the Senate. The Under Sec-
2 retary for Veterans Economic Opportunity shall be ap-
3 pointed without regard to political affiliation or activity
4 and solely on the basis of demonstrated ability in—

5 “(1) information technology; and

6 “(2) the administration of programs within the
7 Veterans Economic Opportunity Administration or
8 programs of similar content and scope.

9 “(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Under Secretary for
10 Veterans Economic Opportunity is the head of, and is di-
11 rectly responsible to the Secretary for the operations of,
12 the Veterans Economic Opportunity Administration.

13 “(c) VACANCIES.—(1) Whenever a vacancy in the po-
14 sition of Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Oppor-
15 tunity occurs or is anticipated, the Secretary shall estab-
16 lish a commission to recommend individuals to the Presi-
17 dent for appointment to the position.

18 “(2) A commission established under this subsection
19 shall be composed of the following members appointed by
20 the Secretary:

21 “(A) Three persons representing education and
22 training, vocational rehabilitation, employment, real
23 estate, mortgage finance and related industries, and
24 survivor benefits activities affected by the Veterans
25 Economic Opportunity Administration.

1 “(B) Two persons representing veterans served
2 by the Veterans Economic Opportunity Administra-
3 tion.

4 “(C) Two persons who have experience in the
5 management of private sector benefits programs of
6 similar content and scope to the economic oppor-
7 tunity programs of the Department.

8 “(D) The Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

9 “(E) The chairman of the Veterans’ Advisory
10 Committee on Education formed under section 3692
11 of this title.

12 “(F) One person who has held the position of
13 Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Oppor-
14 tunity, if the Secretary determines that it is desir-
15 able for such person to be a member of the commis-
16 sion.

17 “(3) A commission established under this subsection
18 shall recommend at least three individuals for appoint-
19 ment to the position of Under Secretary for Veterans Eco-
20 nomic Opportunity. The commission shall submit all rec-
21 ommendations to the Secretary. The Secretary shall for-
22 ward the recommendations to the President and the Com-
23 mittees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of
24 Representatives with any comments the Secretary con-
25 siders appropriate. Thereafter, the President may request

1 the commission to recommend additional individuals for
2 appointment.

3 “(4) The Assistant Secretary or Deputy Assistant
4 Secretary of Veterans Affairs who performs personnel
5 management and labor relations functions shall serve as
6 the executive secretary of a commission established under
7 this subsection.

8 “(d) QUALIFICATIONS OF RECOMMENDED INDIVID-
9 UALS.—Each individual recommended to the President by
10 the commission for appointment to the position of Under
11 Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity shall be an
12 individual who has held a senior level position in the pri-
13 vate sector with responsibilities relating to at least one of
14 the following:

15 “(1) Education policy.

16 “(2) Vocational rehabilitation.

17 “(3) Employment.

18 “(4) Home loan finance.

19 “(5) Small business development.”.

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

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

24 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such title is fur-
25 ther amended—

1 (1) in section 7701(a), by inserting after “as-
2 sistance” the following: “, other than assistance re-
3 lated to economic opportunity,”;

4 (2) in section 7703, by striking paragraphs (2)
5 and (3) and redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as
6 paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively;

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

11 (4) in section 317(d), by inserting after “Under
12 Secretary for Benefits” the following: “, the Under
13 Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity,”;

14 (5) in section 318(d)(2), by inserting after
15 “Under Secretary for Benefits” the following: “, the
16 Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Oppor-
17 tunity,”;

18 (6) in section 516(e)(2)(C), by striking “Health
19 and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting
20 “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the
21 Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Oppor-
22 tunity”;

23 (7) in section 541(a)(2)(B), by striking “Health
24 and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting
25 “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the

1 Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Oppor-
2 tunity”;

3 (8) in section 542(a)(2)(A)(iii), by striking
4 “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and
5 inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits,
6 and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Op-
7 portunity”;

8 (9) in section 544(a)(2)(B)(vi), by striking
9 “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and
10 inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits,
11 and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Op-
12 portunity”; and

13 (10) in section 709(c)(2)(A), by inserting after
14 “Under Secretary for Benefits” the following: “, the
15 Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Oppor-
16 tunity,”.

17 (d) FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES.—For fiscal year 2014,
18 the aggregate number of full-time equivalent employees
19 authorized for the Veterans Benefit Administration and
20 the Veterans Economic Opportunity Administration, as es-
21 tablished under chapter 80 of title 38, United States Code,
22 as added by section 2, may not exceed 20,851.

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