

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5404

To amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2014

Mr. DENHAM (for himself and Mr. MILLER of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act
6 of 2014”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
 2 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
 Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.
 Sec. 3. Scoring of budgetary effects.

TITLE I—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HEALTH
 CARE

- Sec. 101. Extension of requirement to provide nursing home care to certain veterans with service-connected disabilities.
 Sec. 102. Extension of authority for pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service in the Armed Forces.
 Sec. 103. Extension of authority for pilot program on assistance for child care for certain veterans receiving health care.
 Sec. 104. Extension of authority to make grants to veterans service organizations for transportation of highly rural veterans.
 Sec. 105. Extension of requirement for report on activities of Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Interagency Program Office.
 Sec. 106. Extension of authority for the performance of medical disabilities examinations by contract physicians.
 Sec. 107. Extension of authority for collection of copayments for hospital care and nursing home care.
 Sec. 108. Extension of authority for recovery from third parties of cost of care and services furnished to veterans with health-plan contracts for non-service-connected disability.

TITLE II—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO
 HOMELESSNESS

- Sec. 201. Extension of current funding level for comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans.
 Sec. 202. Extension of authority for homeless veterans reintegration programs.
 Sec. 203. Extension of authority to provide referral and counseling services for certain veterans at risk of homelessness.
 Sec. 204. Extension of authority for treatment and rehabilitation services for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans.
 Sec. 205. Extension of authority to provide housing assistance for homeless veterans.
 Sec. 206. Extension of authority to provide financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing.
 Sec. 207. Extension of authority for grant program for homeless veterans with special needs.
 Sec. 208. Extension of authority for the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans.

TITLE III—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO BENEFITS

- Sec. 301. Extension of authority for the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education.

- Sec. 302. Extension of authority for calculating net value of real property at time of foreclosure.
- Sec. 303. Extension of authority relating to vendee loans.
- Sec. 304. Extension of authority to provide rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of the Armed Forces with severe injuries or illnesses.

TITLE IV—OTHER EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY AND OTHER MATTERS

- Sec. 401. Extension of authority to transport certain individuals to and from Department of Veterans Affairs facilities.
- Sec. 402. Extension of authority for operation of the Department of Veterans Affairs regional office in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines.
- Sec. 403. Extension of requirement to provide reports to Congress regarding equitable relief in the case of administrative error.
- Sec. 404. Extension of authority for Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans.
- Sec. 405. Extension of authority for temporary expansion of eligibility for specially adapted housing assistance for certain veterans with disabilities causing difficulty ambulating.
- Sec. 406. Extension of authority for agreement with National Academy of Sciences.
- Sec. 407. Assistance and enforcement of USERRA rights with respect to employers that are Federal departments and agencies.
- Sec. 408. Health professionals education debt reduction.
- Sec. 409. Amendments to Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014.

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
4 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-
5 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a
6 section or other provision of title 38, United States Code.

7 SEC. 3. SCORING OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

8 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of
9 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,
10 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement
11 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this
12 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record

1 by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-
2 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the
3 vote on passage.

4 **TITLE I—EXTENSIONS OF AU-**
5 **THORITY RELATING TO**
6 **HEALTH CARE**

7 **SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE**
8 **NURSING HOME CARE TO CERTAIN VET-**
9 **ERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABIL-**
10 **ITIES.**

11 Section 1710A(d) is amended by striking “December
12 31, 2014” and inserting “December 31, 2015”.

13 **SEC. 102. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PILOT PROGRAM**
14 **ON COUNSELING IN RETREAT SETTINGS FOR**
15 **WOMEN VETERANS NEWLY SEPARATED FROM**
16 **SERVICE IN THE ARMED FORCES.**

17 (a) **EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.**—Subsection (d) of
18 section 203 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus
19 Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–163; 124
20 Stat. 1143; 38 U.S.C. 1712A note) is amended to read
21 as follows:

22 “(d) **TERMINATION.**—The authority to carry out a
23 pilot program under this section shall terminate on De-
24 cember 31, 2015.”.

1 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Sub-
2 section (f) of such section is amended by striking “fiscal
3 years 2010 and 2011” and inserting “fiscal years 2010,
4 2011, and 2015”.

5 **SEC. 103. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PILOT PROGRAM**
6 **ON ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE FOR CER-**
7 **TAIN VETERANS RECEIVING HEALTH CARE.**

8 (a) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.—Subsection (e) of
9 section 205 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus
10 Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–163; 124
11 Stat. 1144; 38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is amended to read as
12 follows:

13 “(e) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out a
14 pilot program under this section shall terminate on De-
15 cember 31, 2015.”.

16 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Sub-
17 section (h) of such section is amended by striking “2014”
18 and inserting “2015”.

19 **SEC. 104. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS TO**
20 **VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS FOR**
21 **TRANSPORTATION OF HIGHLY RURAL VET-**
22 **ERANS.**

23 Section 307(d) of the Caregivers and Veterans Omni-
24 bus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–163;

1 124 Stat. 1154; 38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is amended by
2 striking “2014” and inserting “2015”.

3 **SEC. 105. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT FOR REPORT ON**
4 **ACTIVITIES OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE-**
5 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS INTER-**
6 **AGENCY PROGRAM OFFICE.**

7 Section 1635(h)(1) of the Wounded Warrior Act
8 (title XVI of Public Law 110–181; 122 Stat. 460; 10
9 U.S.C. 1071 note) is amended by striking “2014” and in-
10 serting “2015”.

11 **SEC. 106. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR THE PERFORM-**
12 **ANCE OF MEDICAL DISABILITIES EXAMINA-**
13 **TIONS BY CONTRACT PHYSICIANS.**

14 Section 704(c) of the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003
15 (Public Law 108–183; 38 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended
16 by striking “December 31, 2014” and inserting “Decem-
17 ber 31, 2015”.

18 **SEC. 107. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR COLLECTION OF**
19 **COPAYMENTS FOR HOSPITAL CARE AND**
20 **NURSING HOME CARE.**

21 Section 1710(f)(2)(B) is amended by striking “Sep-
22 tember 30, 2014” and inserting “September 30, 2015”.

1 **SEC. 108. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR RECOVERY FROM**
2 **THIRD PARTIES OF COST OF CARE AND SERV-**
3 **ICES FURNISHED TO VETERANS WITH**
4 **HEALTH-PLAN CONTRACTS FOR NON-SERV-**
5 **ICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY.**

6 Section 1729(a)(2)(E) is amended by striking “Octo-
7 ber 1, 2014” and inserting “October 1, 2015”.

8 **TITLE II—EXTENSIONS OF AU-**
9 **THORITY RELATING TO**
10 **HOMELESSNESS**

11 **SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF CURRENT FUNDING LEVEL FOR**
12 **COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS FOR**
13 **HOMELESS VETERANS.**

14 Section 2013(7) is amended by striking
15 “\$150,000,000” and inserting “\$250,000,000”.

16 **SEC. 202. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR HOMELESS VET-**
17 **ERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS.**

18 Section 2021(e)(1)(F) is amended by striking
19 “2014” and inserting “2015”.

20 **SEC. 203. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE REFER-**
21 **RAL AND COUNSELING SERVICES FOR CER-**
22 **TAIN VETERANS AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS.**

23 Section 2023(d) is amended by striking “September
24 30, 2014” and inserting “September 30, 2015”.

1 **SEC. 204. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TREATMENT AND**
2 **REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR SERIOUSLY**
3 **MENTALLY ILL AND HOMELESS VETERANS.**

4 (a) GENERAL TREATMENT.—Section 2031(b) is
5 amended by striking “December 31, 2014” and inserting
6 “September 30, 2015”.

7 (b) ADDITIONAL SERVICES AT CERTAIN LOCA-
8 TIONS.—Section 2033(d) is amended by striking “Decem-
9 ber 31, 2014” and inserting “September 30, 2015”.

10 **SEC. 205. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE HOUS-**
11 **ING ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.**

12 Section 2041(c) is amended by striking “December
13 31, 2014” and inserting “September 30, 2015”.

14 **SEC. 206. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE FINAN-**
15 **CIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERV-**
16 **ICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMI-**
17 **LIES IN PERMANENT HOUSING.**

18 Section 2044(e)(1)(E) is amended by striking “fiscal
19 years 2013 and 2014” and inserting “fiscal years 2013
20 through 2015”.

21 **SEC. 207. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR GRANT PRO-**
22 **GRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS WITH SPE-**
23 **CIAL NEEDS.**

24 Section 2061(d)(1) is amended by striking “2014”
25 and inserting “2015”.

1 **SEC. 208. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR THE ADVISORY**
2 **COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS VETERANS.**

3 Section 2066(d) is amended by striking “December
4 31, 2014” and inserting “December 31, 2017”.

5 **TITLE III—EXTENSIONS OF AU-**
6 **THORITY RELATING TO BENE-**
7 **FITS**

8 **SEC. 301. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR THE VETERANS’**
9 **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.**

10 Section 3692(e) is amended by striking “December
11 31, 2014” and inserting “December 31, 2017”.

12 **SEC. 302. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR CALCULATING**
13 **NET VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY AT TIME OF**
14 **FORECLOSURE.**

15 Section 3732(c)(11) is amended by striking “October
16 1, 2014” and inserting “October 1, 2015”.

17 **SEC. 303. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO VEND-**
18 **EE LOANS.**

19 Section 3733(a)(7) is amended—

20 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),
21 by striking “September 30, 2014” and inserting
22 “September 30, 2015”; and

23 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “Sep-
24 tember 30, 2014,” and inserting “September 30,
25 2015,”.

1 **SEC. 304. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE REHA-**
2 **BILITATION AND VOCATIONAL BENEFITS TO**
3 **MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WITH SE-**
4 **VERE INJURIES OR ILLNESSES.**

5 Section 1631(b)(2) of the Wounded Warrior Act (title
6 XVI of Public Law 110–181; 122 Stat. 458; 10 U.S.C.
7 1071 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2014”
8 and inserting “December 31, 2015”.

9 **TITLE IV—OTHER EXTENSIONS**
10 **OF AUTHORITY AND OTHER**
11 **MATTERS**

12 **SEC. 401. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO TRANSPORT CER-**
13 **TAIN INDIVIDUALS TO AND FROM DEPART-**
14 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES.**

15 Section 111A(a)(2) is amended by striking “Decem-
16 ber 31, 2014” and inserting “December 31, 2015”.

17 **SEC. 402. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR OPERATION OF**
18 **THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
19 **REGIONAL OFFICE IN MANILA, THE REPUB-**
20 **LIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.**

21 Section 315(b) is amended by striking “December 31,
22 2014” and inserting “September 30, 2015”.

1 **SEC. 403. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE RE-**
2 **PORTS TO CONGRESS REGARDING EQUI-**
3 **TABLE RELIEF IN THE CASE OF ADMINISTRA-**
4 **TIVE ERROR.**

5 Section 503(c) is amended by striking “December 31,
6 2014” and inserting “December 31, 2015”.

7 **SEC. 404. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR ADVISORY COM-**
8 **MITTEE ON MINORITY VETERANS.**

9 Section 544(e) is amended by striking “December 31,
10 2014” and inserting “December 31, 2017”.

11 **SEC. 405. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TEMPORARY EX-**
12 **PANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SPECIALLY**
13 **ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR CER-**
14 **TAIN VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES CAUSING**
15 **DIFFICULTY AMBULATING.**

16 Section 2101(a)(4) is amended—

17 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “Sep-

18 tember 30, 2014” and inserting “September 30,

19 2015”; and

20 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “fiscal

21 year 2014” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2014

22 and 2015”.

23 **SEC. 406. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR AGREEMENT**
24 **WITH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.**

25 Section 3(i) of the Agent Orange Act of 1991 (Public

26 Law 102-4; 105 Stat. 13; 38 U.S.C. 1116 note) is amend-

1 ed by striking “October 1, 2014” and inserting “Decem-
2 ber 31, 2015”.

3 **SEC. 407. ASSISTANCE AND ENFORCEMENT OF USERRA**
4 **RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO EMPLOYERS THAT**
5 **ARE FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGEN-**
6 **CIES.**

7 (a) ASSISTANCE.—Section 4321 is amended—

8 (1) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting
9 “(a) STATE AND PRIVATE EMPLOYERS.—The Sec-
10 retary”;

11 (2) by inserting after “this chapter” the fol-
12 lowing: “with respect to a State (as an employer) or
13 a private employer”; and

14 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
15 section:

16 “(b) FEDERAL EMPLOYERS.—The Office of Special
17 Counsel established by section 1211 of title 5 shall provide
18 assistance to any person with respect to the employment
19 and reemployment rights and benefits to which such per-
20 son is entitled under this chapter with respect to a Federal
21 executive agency or the Office of Personnel Management.
22 In providing such assistance, the Special Counsel may re-
23 quest the assistance of existing Federal and State agencies
24 engaged in similar or related activities and utilize the as-
25 sistance of volunteers.”.

1 (b) INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT.—Section
2 4324 is amended—

3 (1) in subsection (a)—

4 (A) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-
5 ing the following new paragraph (1):

6 “(1)(A) A person described in subparagraph (B) may
7 file a complaint with the Office of Special Counsel estab-
8 lished by section 1211 of title 5, and the Special Counsel
9 shall investigate such complaint.

10 “(B) A person described in this subparagraph is a
11 person who claims that—

12 “(i) such person is entitled under this chapter
13 to employment or reemployment rights or benefits
14 with respect to employment by an employer that is
15 a Federal executive agency; and

16 “(ii) such employer or the Office of Personnel
17 Management has failed or refused, or is about to fail
18 or refuse, to comply with the provisions of this chap-
19 ter.

20 “(C) Such a complaint shall be in writing, be in such
21 form as the Special Counsel may prescribe, include the
22 name and address of the employer against whom the com-
23 plaint is filed, and contain a summary of the allegations
24 that form the basis for the complaint.”; and

25 (B) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
2 “the person on whose behalf a complaint is
3 referred” and inserting “a person who sub-
4 mits a complaint”; and

5 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

6 (I) by striking “60 days” and in-
7 serting “90 days”; and

8 (II) by striking “receives a refer-
9 ral” and inserting “receives a person’s
10 complaint”;

11 (2) in subsection (b)—

12 (A) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2);

13 and

14 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and

15 (4) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively; and

16 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
17 section:

18 “(e) This subchapter does not apply to any action re-
19 lating to benefits to be provided under the Thrift Savings
20 Plan under title 5.”.

21 (c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

22 Chapter 43 is amended—

23 (1) in section 4322—

24 (A) in subsection (a)—

1 (i) in paragraph (1), by inserting after
2 “an employer” the following: “that is a
3 State or a private employer”; and

4 (ii) in paragraph (2)—

5 (I) by striking “(A)”;

6 (II) by striking “; or” and insert-
7 ing a comma; and

8 (III) by striking subparagraph
9 (B);

10 (B) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “or
11 4324, as the case may be”;

12 (C) in subsection (e)(2), by striking “(in
13 the case of a person submitting a complaint
14 against a State or private employer) or section
15 4324 (in the case of a person submitting a com-
16 plaint against a Federal executive agency or the
17 Office of Personnel Management)”;

18 (D) by striking subsection (g); and

19 (E) by striking the section heading and in-
20 serting the following: “**Investigation and**
21 **resolution of claims with respect to a**
22 **State or private employer”;**

23 (2) in section 4325(d)—

24 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or the
25 Special Counsel” after “Secretary”; and

1 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, the
2 Special Counsel,” after “Secretary”;

3 (3) in section 4326—

4 (A) in subsection (a)—

5 (i) by striking “the Secretary’s duly
6 authorized representatives” and inserting
7 “the duly authorized representatives of the
8 Secretary or the Special Counsel, as the
9 case may be,” and

10 (ii) by striking “the Secretary con-
11 siders” and inserting “the Secretary or the
12 Special Counsel, as the case may be, con-
13 siders”;

14 (B) in subsection (b), by inserting after
15 “Secretary” both places it appears the fol-
16 lowing: “(or the Special Counsel, as the case
17 may be)”; and

18 (C) in subsection (c), by inserting “or the
19 Special Counsel” after “Secretary” each place
20 it appears;

21 (4) in section 4327—

22 (A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking
23 “4324(a)(1),”; and

24 (B) in subsection (b), by inserting “the
25 Special Counsel,” after “the Secretary,”; and

1 (5) in section 4332(b)(3)—

2 (A) by striking “received a referral” and
3 inserting “received a complaint submitted”; and

4 (B) by striking “for such referral”.

5 (d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
6 at the beginning of chapter 43 is amended by striking the
7 item relating to section 4322 and inserting the following
8 new item:

“4322. Investigation and resolution of claims with respect to a State or private
employer.”.

9 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—This section and the amend-
11 ments made by this section shall take effect on the
12 date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment
13 of this Act.

14 (2) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS; FUNDING.—
15 During the 90-day period following the date of the
16 enactment of this Act, the Special Counsel shall
17 enter into an agreement with the Secretary of Labor
18 to transfer to the Special Counsel such sums as may
19 be necessary to carry out the functions reassigned to
20 the Special Counsel pursuant to this section. The
21 Director of the Office of Management and Budget
22 shall coordinate with the Special Counsel and the
23 Secretary of Labor in entering into and carrying out
24 such agreement. No funds may be transferred under

1 an agreement entered into under this paragraph on
2 or after the first day of any period for which appro-
3 priations are provided for the Office of Special
4 Counsel in an appropriations Act (other than a con-
5 tinuing resolution) enacted subsequent to the date of
6 the enactment of this Act.

7 **SEC. 408. HEALTH PROFESSIONALS EDUCATION DEBT RE-**
8 **DUCTION.**

9 Section 7683 is amended—

10 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
11 following new subsection:

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Education debt reduction pay-
13 ments under the Education Debt Reduction Program shall
14 consist of—

15 “(1) payments to individuals selected to partici-
16 pate in the program of amounts to reimburse such
17 individuals for payments by such individuals of prin-
18 cipal and interest on loans described in section
19 7682(a)(2) of this title; or

20 “(2) payments for the principal and interest on
21 such loans of such individuals to the holders of such
22 loans.”;

23 (2) in subsections (b) and (c), by striking “pay-
24 ments to” both places it appears and inserting “pay-
25 ments to or for”; and

1 (3) in subsection (d)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “made
3 to” and inserting “made to or for”; and

4 (B) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “pay-
5 able to that” and inserting “payable to or for
6 that”.

7 **SEC. 409. AMENDMENTS TO VETERANS ACCESS, CHOICE,**
8 **AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2014.**

9 (a) **EXPANDED AVAILABILITY OF HOSPITAL CARE**
10 **AND MEDICAL SERVICES.**—Section 101 of the Veterans
11 Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public
12 Law 113–146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (c)—

14 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “pro-
15 vide the veteran an appointment that exceeds
16 the wait-time goals described in such subsection
17 or” before “place such”; and

18 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “(or
19 other digital channel)” after “website”;

20 (2) in subsection (d)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by adding at the
22 end the following new sentence: “An agreement
23 entered into pursuant to this subparagraph may
24 not be treated as a public contract for the ac-
25 quisition of goods or services and is not subject

1 to any provision of law governing public con-
2 tracts or the acquisition of goods or services.
3 Before entering into an agreement pursuant to
4 this subparagraph, the Secretary shall, to the
5 maximum extent practicable and consistent with
6 the requirements of this section, furnish such
7 care and services to such veterans under this
8 section with such entities pursuant to sharing
9 agreements, existing contracts entered into by
10 the Secretary, or other processes available at
11 medical facilities of the Department.”; and

12 (B) in paragraph (2)(B)(ii)—

13 (i) in subclause (I), by striking “The
14 Secretary” and inserting “Except as pro-
15 vided by subclause (III), the Secretary”;
16 and

17 (ii) by adding at the end the following
18 new subclause:

19 “(III) SPECIAL RULES FOR ALAS-
20 KA AND MARYLAND.—With respect to
21 furnishing care or services under this
22 section in Alaska, the Secretary shall
23 negotiate a rate in accordance with
24 the Alaska Fee Schedule of the De-
25 partment of Veterans Affairs except

1 in instances where the Secretary en-
2 ters into another agreement, including
3 a contract or provider agreement.
4 With respect to furnishing care or
5 services under this section in Mary-
6 land, in the event of an all-payer
7 Medicare waiver under section 1115A
8 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
9 1315a), the Secretary shall ensure
10 that rates are negotiated in accord-
11 ance with rates established pursuant
12 to such waiver, except in instances
13 where the Secretary enters into an-
14 other payment agreement.”;

15 (3) in subsection (l)(1), by inserting “a copy
16 of” before “any medical record”; and

17 (4) by adding at the end the following new sub-
18 section:

19 “(t) WAIVER OF CERTAIN PRINTING REQUIRE-
20 MENTS.—Section 501 of title 44, United States Code,
21 shall not apply in carrying out this section.”.

22 (b) COLLABORATION BETWEEN VA AND INDIAN
23 HEALTH SERVICE.—Section 102 of the Veterans Access,
24 Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–
25 146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (b), by striking “The Sec-
2 retary of Veterans Affairs shall establish” and in-
3 serting the following: “The Secretary of Veterans
4 Affairs and the Director of the Indian Health Serv-
5 ice shall jointly establish and implement”;

6 (2) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
7 following new paragraph:

8 “(3) Entering into an agreement between the
9 Department and the Indian Health Service described
10 in paragraph (2)(A) with respect to the effect of
11 such agreement on the priority access of any Indian
12 to health care services provided through the Indian
13 Health Service, the eligibility of any Indian to re-
14 ceive health services through the Indian Health
15 Service, and the quality of health care services pro-
16 vided to any Indian through the Indian Health Serv-
17 ice.”; and

18 (3) by striking subsection (d).

19 (c) PROMPT PAYMENT.—Section 105 of the Veterans
20 Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public
21 Law 113–146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “section
23 1315” and inserting “part 1315”;

24 (2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “chapter
25 39” and inserting “chapter 39 of title 31”; and

1 (3) in subsection (d), by striking “required by
2 subsection (b)” and inserting “required by sub-
3 section (c)”.

4 (d) IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESS TO MOBILE VET CEN-
5 TERS.—Section 204 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and
6 Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–146; 38
7 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and re-
10 adjustment counseling services” after “other
11 health care”; and

12 (B) in paragraph (2)—

13 (i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
14 “and events” after “locations”; and

15 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting
16 “and outreach contacts” after “appoint-
17 ments”; and

18 (2) in subsection (b)(2)—

19 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

20 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
21 by inserting “and readjustment coun-
22 seling” after “telemedicine services”; and

23 (ii) in clause (iii), by inserting “and
24 outreach contracts” after “appointments”;

1 (B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
2 “and readjustment counseling” after “health
3 care services”; and

4 (C) in subparagraph (E), by striking “mo-
5 bile vet centers and”.

6 (e) IMPROVED TRANSPARENCY.—Section 206(b) of
7 the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of
8 2014 (Public Law 113–146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) is
9 amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “comprehen-
11 sive database” and inserting “comprehensive, ma-
12 chine-readable data set”;

13 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking “notice in the
14 database of the reason” and inserting “notice of the
15 reason”; and

16 (3) in paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), by striking
17 “database” each place it appears and inserting
18 “data”.

19 (f) INFORMATION ON CREDENTIALS.—Section 207 of
20 the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of
21 2014 (Public Law 113–146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) is
22 amended by striking “successor database” each place it
23 appears and inserting “successor data set”.

1 (g) REPORT ON STAFFING SHORTAGES.—Section
2 301(b)(3) of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Account-
3 ability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–146) is amended—

4 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “Not
5 later” and all that follows through “2019” and in-
6 serting the following: “On October 1 of each year
7 beginning in 2015 and ending in 2019”; and

8 (2) in subparagraph (B)—

9 (A) in clause (iii), by striking “at each”
10 and all that follows through the period at the
11 end and inserting the following: “or guidelines
12 of the Department with respect to determining
13 the ratio of residents to staff supervising resi-
14 dents.”; and

15 (B) by striking clause (v) and inserting the
16 following new clause:

17 “(v) Efforts of the Department, as of
18 the date of the submittal of the report, to
19 recruit and retain medical residents to
20 work for the Veterans Health Administra-
21 tion as full-time employees.”.

22 (h) PROJECT ARCH.—Section 403(j) of the Vet-
23 erans’ Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act
24 of 2008 (Public Law 110–387; 38 U.S.C. 1703 note) is
25 amended—

1 (1) by striking “In carrying out” and inserting
2 “Notwithstanding any provision of law relating to
3 the use of competitive procedures in entering into
4 contracts, in carrying out”; and

5 (2) by inserting “under this section” after
6 “make use of contracts entered into”.

7 (i) CLARIFICATION OF APPROVAL OF COURSES OF
8 EDUCATION PROVIDED BY PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF
9 HIGHER LEARNING AND IN-STATE TUITION RATE FOR
10 VETERANS.—Paragraph (1) of section 3679(c) is amend-
11 ed to read as follows:

12 “(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
13 chapter and subject to paragraphs (3) through (6), the
14 Secretary shall disapprove a course of education provided
15 by a public institution of higher learning if the institution
16 charges tuition and fees for that course for covered indi-
17 viduals who are pursuing the course with educational as-
18 sistance under chapter 30 or 33 of this title while living
19 in the State in which the institution is located at a rate
20 that is higher than the rate the institution charges for tui-
21 tion and fees for that course for residents of the State
22 in which the institution is located, regardless of the cov-
23 ered individual’s State of residence.”.

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