

COVID-19 and related complications may be fatal;

(3) services provided by public safety officers are nonetheless essential during this pandemic;

(4) due to the COVID-19 pandemic and what is currently known about how the disease is spread, public safety officers are uncharacteristically at risk of contracting the disease; and

(5) although the Public Safety Officers' Benefits program currently covers deaths and permanent and total disabilities resulting from infectious disease sustained by public safety officers in carrying out their duties, the determination of claims involving personal injuries believed to have resulted from COVID-19 or its complications may be uniquely challenging or delayed given the lack of—

(A) definitive testing and medical records at this time; and

(B) a definitive uniform body of medical information about how the disease is spread or its effects.

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this Act is to establish a carefully drawn framework wherein claims under the Public Safety Officers' Benefits program, arising under the unique circumstances described in subsection (a), can be processed expeditiously and under fair and clear standards.

SEC. 3. PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER BENEFITS.

(a) **DEATH BENEFITS.**—As determined by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, unless competent medical evidence establishes that the death of a public safety officer (as defined in section 1204 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10284)) was directly and proximately caused by something other than COVID-19, COVID-19 (or complications therefrom) suffered by the public safety officer shall be presumed to constitute a personal injury within the meaning of section 1201(a) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281(a)), sustained in the line of duty by the officer and directly and proximately resulting in death, if—

(1) the officer engaged in a line of duty action or activity between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2021;

(2) the officer was diagnosed with COVID-19 (or evidence indicates that the officer had COVID-19) during the 45-day period beginning on the last day of duty of the officer; and

(3) evidence indicates that the officer had COVID-19 (or complications therefrom) at the time of the officer's death.

(b) **DISABILITY BENEFITS.**—As determined by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, COVID-19 (or complications therefrom) suffered by a public safety officer shall be presumed to constitute a personal injury within the meaning of section 1201(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281(b)), sustained in the line of duty by the officer, if—

(1) the officer engaged in a line of duty action or activity between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2021; and

(2) the officer was diagnosed with COVID-19 (or evidence indicates that the officer had COVID-19) during the 45-day period beginning on the last day of duty of the officer.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VETERAN TREATMENT COURT COORDINATION ACT OF 2019

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the

Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 886) to direct the Attorney General to establish and carry out a Veteran Treatment Court Program, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veteran Treatment Court Coordination Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that veterans treatment courts are a successful program aimed at helping veterans charged with non-violent crimes receive the help and the benefits for which the veterans are entitled.

SEC. 3. VETERAN TREATMENT COURT PROGRAM.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Subject to the availability of appropriations, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Attorney General shall establish and carry out a Veteran Treatment Court Program to provide grants and technical assistance to court systems that—

(1) have adopted a Veterans Treatment Court Program; or

(2) have filed a notice of intent to establish a Veterans Treatment Court Program with the Secretary.

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of the Veterans Treatment Court Program established under subsection (a) is to ensure the Department of Justice has a single office to coordinate the provision of grants, training, and technical assistance to help State, local, and Tribal governments to develop and maintain veteran treatment courts.

(c) **PROGRAMS INCLUDED.**—The Veterans Treatment Court Program established under subsection (a) shall include the grant programs relating to veterans treatment courts carried out by the Attorney General pursuant to sections 2991 and 3021 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10651, 10701) or any other provision of law.

(d) **REGULATIONS.**—The Attorney General shall promulgate regulations to carry out this section.

Mr. CICILLINE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Rhode Island?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from Rhode Island?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CONTRACTING PREFERENCE CONSISTENCY ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 4920) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an exception to certain small business contracting requirements applicable to the Department of Veterans Affairs procurement of cer-

tain goods and services covered under the Ability One program, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Department of Veterans Affairs Contracting Preference Consistency Act of 2020".

SEC. 2. EXCEPTION TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTING REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN GOODS AND SERVICES COVERED UNDER ABILITY ONE PROGRAM.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Subsection (d) of section 8127 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "Except" and inserting "(1) Except";

(2) by inserting "in paragraph (2) and" before "in subsections (b) and (c)"; and

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

"(2)(A) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) and except as provided by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, with respect to the procurement of a covered product or service, a contracting officer of the Department shall procure such product or service from a source designated under chapter 85 of title 41, and in accordance with the regulations prescribed under such chapter.

"(B)(i) Subject to clause (ii), subparagraph (A) shall not apply in the case of a covered product or service for which a contract was—

"(I) awarded under paragraph (1) after December 22, 2006; and

"(II) in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Department of Veterans Affairs Contracting Preference Consistency Act of 2020.

"(ii) Clause (i) shall cease to apply to a covered product or service described in such clause upon a determination of the Secretary that when the current contract for the covered product or service is terminated or expires there is no reasonable expectation that—

"(I) two or more small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans will submit offers as described in paragraph (1); and

"(II) the award can be made at a fair and reasonable price that offers best value to the United States.

"(C) In this paragraph, the term 'covered product or service' means—

"(i) a product or service that—

"(I) is included on the procurement list under section 8503(a) of title 41; and

"(II) was included on such procurement list on or before December 22, 2006; or

"(ii) a product or service that—

"(I) is a replacement for a product or service described under clause (i);

"(II) is essentially the same and meeting the same requirement as the product or service being replaced; and

"(III) a contracting officer determines meets the quality standards and delivery schedule of the Department."

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Such section is further amended in each of subsections (b) and (c), by striking "For" and inserting "Except as provided in subsection (d)(2), for".

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to a contract entered into on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Mr. TAKANO (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RYAN KULES SPECIALLY ADAPTIVE HOUSING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2019

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 3504) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for improvements to the specially adapted housing program and educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Ryan Kules and Paul Benne Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO ASSIST BLIND VETERANS WHO HAVE NOT LOST USE OF A LEG IN ACQUIRING SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING.

Section 2101 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking "permanent and total"; and

(B) in subparagraph (B),

(i) in clauses (i), (iii), (iv), and (v), by inserting "permanent and total" before "disability"; and

(ii) in clause (ii)—

(I) by inserting "permanent" before "disability";

(II) by striking "due to—" and inserting "due to blindness in both eyes, having central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with the use of a standard correcting lens. For the purposes of this clause, an eye with a limitation in the fields of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees shall be considered as having a central visual acuity of 20/200 or less."; and

(III) by striking subclauses (I) and (II); and

(2) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (A); and

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively.

SEC. 3. INCREASE IN AMOUNTS OF SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) INCREASE OF NUMBER OF GRANTS PER VETERAN.—Section 2102(d)(3) of such title is amended—

(1) by striking "No veteran" and inserting "Subject to subsection (f), no veteran"; and

(2) by striking "three" and inserting "six".

(b) INCREASE IN NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS AUTHORIZED TO BE APPROVED.—Section 2101(a)(4) of such title is amended by striking "30 applications" and inserting "120 applications".

(c) INCREASE IN MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE FOR ADAPTATION TO VETERAN'S RESIDENCE.—Section 2102(b)(2) of such title is amended by striking "\$12,000" and inserting "\$19,733".

(d) INCREASE IN AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE FOR ACQUISITION OF HOUSING WITH SPECIAL FEATURES.—Section 2102(d)(1) of such title is amended by striking "\$63,780" and inserting "\$98,492".

(e) INCREASE IN AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE FOR ADAPTATIONS TO VETERANS' RESIDENCES.—Section 2102(d)(2) of such title is amended by striking "\$12,756" and inserting "\$19,733".

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICATION.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on October 1, 2020.

SEC. 4. PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS OF SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS.

Section 2102 of such title, as amended by section 3, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(f)(1) Beginning October 1, 2030, notwithstanding the aggregate amounts specified in subsection (d), a covered veteran may apply for and receive an additional amount of assistance under subsection (a) or (b) of section 2101 of this title in an amount that does not exceed half of the amount specified in subsection (d).

"(2) In this subsection, a covered veteran is a veteran who—

"(A) is described in subsection (a)(2) or (b)(2) of section 2101 of this title;

"(B) as of the date of the veteran's application for assistance under paragraph (1), most recently received assistance under this chapter more than 10 years before such date; and

"(C) lives in a home that the Secretary determines does not have adaptations that are reasonably necessary because of the veteran's disability."

SEC. 5. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PREPARATORY COURSES AS PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION FOR PURPOSES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3315A the following new section:

"§3315B. Preparatory courses for licensure, certification, or national tests

"(a) IN GENERAL.—An individual entitled to educational assistance under this chapter shall also be entitled to payment for a covered preparatory course.

"(b) AMOUNT.—The amount of educational assistance payable under this chapter for a covered preparatory course is the lesser of—

"(1) the fee charged for the covered preparatory course; or

"(2) the amount of entitlement available to the individual under this chapter at the time of payment for the covered preparatory course under this section.

"(c) CHARGE AGAINST ENTITLEMENT.—The number of months of entitlement charged an individual under this chapter for a covered preparatory course shall be pro-rated based on the actual amount of the fee charged for the covered preparatory course relative to the rate for 1 month payable—

"(1) for the academic year beginning on August 1, 2020, \$2,042; or

"(2) for an academic year beginning on any subsequent August 1, the amount for the previous academic year beginning on August 1 under this subsection, as increased by the percentage increase equal to the most recent percentage increase determined under section 3015(h).

"(d) COVERED PREPARATORY COURSE DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'covered preparatory course' means a course—

"(1) for a licensing or certification test that is required or used to enter into, maintain, or ad-

vance in employment in a predetermined and identified vocation or profession; and

"(2) that has been approved by the State approving agency concerned."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3315A the following new item:

"3315B. Preparatory courses for licensure, certification, or national tests."

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 3532(g) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting "or a covered preparatory course (as that term is defined in section 3315B(a) of this title)" after "or national test providing an opportunity for course credit at institutions of higher learning described in section 3501(a)(5) of this title"; and

(2) in paragraphs (2) and (3), by inserting "or covered preparatory course" after "test" each place it appears.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on August 1, 2021.

SEC. 6. IMPROVEMENT TO WORK-STUDY ALLOWANCE PROGRAM.

(a) PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCE.—Subsection (a) of section 3485 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "Individuals" and inserting "In accordance with paragraph (4), individuals";

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) as paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

"(4)(A) With respect to covered work-study activities, the Secretary shall carry out this section by providing to participating educational institutions an annual amount for the institution to use in paying work-study allowance under paragraph (1) to individuals enrolled at the institution.

"(B) With respect to a participating educational institution that participated in the work-study program under this section during the academic year beginning August 1, 2018, the Secretary shall determine the annual amount to provide to the educational institution under subparagraph (A) as follows:

"(i) For the academic year beginning August 1, 2020, the amount shall be the total amount, determined in consultation with the educational institution, that the Secretary paid under this section for covered work-study activities to individuals enrolled at such educational institution during the academic year beginning August 1, 2018.

"(ii) Except as provided by clauses (ii) or (iii) of subparagraph (D), for each academic year beginning on or after August 1, 2021, the amount shall be the total amount the educational institution paid under this section for work-study allowance for covered work-study activities to individuals enrolled at such educational institution during the previous academic year in which individuals participated in the work-study program.

"(C) With respect to a participating educational institution that did not participate in the work-study program under this section during the academic year beginning August 1, 2018, the Secretary shall determine the annual amount to provide to the educational institution under subparagraph (A) as follows:

"(i) For the first academic year in which the educational institution participates in the work-study program beginning on or after August 1, 2020, the amount shall be an amount, determined in consultation with the educational institution, that the Secretary determines appropriate based on amounts provided to similar educational institutions pursuant to subparagraph (B).

"(ii) Except as provided by clauses (ii) or (iii) of subparagraph (D), for each academic year occurring after the academic year specified in