119TH CONGRESS
1st Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT
119–350

VETERANS SCAM AND FRAUD EVASION ACT OF 2025

OCTOBER 21, 2025.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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Mr. BOST, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, submitted the following

R E P O R T

together with

MINORITY VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 1663]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1663) to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Officer, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

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69–006

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Scam And Fraud Evasion Act of 2025” or the “VSAFE Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. VETERANS SCAM AND FRAUD EVASION OFFICER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 325. Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Officer

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is in the Department a Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Officer, who shall—

“(1) be responsible for fraud and scam prevention, reporting, and incident response plans at the Department; and

“(2) serve as a central point of contact to direct veterans to resources to prevent and mitigate fraud and scams.

“(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Officer shall carry out the following responsibilities:

“(1) Providing comprehensive communication from the Secretary to employees of the Department and veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors during strategic and time-sensitive fraud and scam incidents.

“(2) Establishing consistent guidance across the enterprise for employees as well as veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors on how to identify, report, and avoid fraud and scam attempts.

“(3) Promoting the VSAFE Fraud Hotline and VSAFE.gov website of the Department (and any successor resources) and identifying other identity theft resources available to veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors, including with respect to actions made by the Secretary to protect the identities of veterans and their beneficiaries.

“(4) Developing methods to monitor fraud and scam metrics within the Department to—

“(A) provide internal and external reporting;

“(B) enable advanced data analytics; and

“(C) facilitate proactive and robust fraud and scam trend identification.

“(5) Developing comprehensive training plans for Department employees fielding fraud and scam inquiries and reports.

“(6) Coordinating with the Inspector General of the Department and other Federal departments and agencies, including the Executive Office of the President, the Office of Management and Budget, the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Justice, the Department of State, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Department of Defense, the Department of Education, the Social Security Administration, and other relevant agencies to—

“(A) develop a whole-of-Government view within the Department to improve fraud prevention efforts within the Department;

“(B) identify the proper avenues for veterans to report fraud attempts and receive assistance; and

“(C) identify opportunities for coordination with such departments and agencies.

“(7) Consulting with veterans service organizations and State, local, and tribal governments, as necessary, to improve understanding of potential fraud and scam risks to veterans.

“(c) FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES.—Nothing in this section authorizes an increase in the number of full-time employees otherwise authorized for the Department.

“(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Office of Inspector General of the Department as otherwise provided in this title or in chapter 4 of title 5 (commonly referred to as the Inspector General Act of 1978).”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“325. Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Officer.”.

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF PENSION.

Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “November 30, 2031” and inserting “January 30, 2032”.

PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

H.R. 1663, the "Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Act of 2025," was introduced by Representative Ken Calvert of California on February 27, 2025. The bill, as amended, would establish a Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Officer at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The officer would lead the Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion (VSAFE) office and be tasked with coordinating all fraud and scam prevention efforts both inside VA and with external agencies that work with VA. Specifically, the officer would be responsible for developing VA's fraud and scam prevention, reporting, and incident response plans. The bill, as amended, would also establish a name for the fraud and scam prevention hotline and website.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Section 1: Short Title

This Act may be cited as the "Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Act of 2025," or the "VSAFE Act of 2025."

Section 2: Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Officer

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) receives hundreds of thousands of reports of fraud and scams from the veteran and military community. According to FTC data, veterans reported $350 million in fraud losses in 2023 alone.[1] Historically, VA has had several organizations dedicated to combating fraud and scams that target veterans. However, Committee oversight suggests these efforts are redundant and ineffective. Currently, the VSAFE office is not codified and could be nullified by any future administration. The Committee believes that without a permanent legislative solution, veterans remain vulnerable to scams and fraudsters.

The Committee believes this section would better protect veterans against fraudsters and scammers by establishing and codifying a VA Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Officer who would be responsible for fraud and scam prevention, incident response plans, and reporting to the VA Secretary. The officer would also have additional responsibilities, including alerting and establishing guidance to veterans and VA employees anytime fraud attempts are made; promoting the VSAFE Fraud Hotline and the VSAFE.gov website; developing a training curriculum for veterans and VA employees to identify and report scams and fraud; and creating a whole-of-government approach with other federal agencies to combat scams and fraud.

Section 3: Modification of Certain Limits on Payments of Pension

Under current law (38 U.S.C. § 5503(d)), the amount of VA pension paid to veterans with no spouse or child, veterans' surviving spouses with no child, or a veteran's child who are admitted to a VA or Medicaid-sponsored nursing facility is capped at $90 per month. This section would cover the costs of the other sections of this bill by extending this pension limitation from November 30,

[1] Disabled American Veterans, *There's a Bill to Protect Veterans from Scams and Fraud*, (Mar. 21,2024), https://www.dav.org/learn-more/news/2024/theres-a-bill-to-protect-veterans-from-scams-and-fraud/.

2031, to January 30, 2032. Because they receive government-sponsored care in a nursing home, these pension beneficiaries do not require the full amount of pension to cover their cost of living. The Committee believes this short-term extension of the current limit on pension payments is a reasonable way to cover the costs associated with the other sections of this bill.

HEARINGS

On June 11, 2025, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a legislative hearing on H.R. 1663 and other bills pending before the subcommittee.

The following witnesses testified:

Ms. Laura Duke, Chief Financial Officer, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Jennifer McDonald, Director, Community Care Division, Office of Audits and Evaluations, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Toni Phillips, Chief Nurse Informatics Officer, Electronic Health Record Management Information Office, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Cherri Waters, Acting Deputy Chief Information Officer and Executive Director, Health Portfolio, Office of Information and Technology, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Cody Carbone, Chief Executive Officer, The Digital Chamber; Mr. Cole T. Lyle, The American Legion; and Dr. Edward O'Bryan, Chief, Veterans and Corrections ICCE, Associate Professor of Medicine, Medical University of South Carolina.

The following individuals and organizations submitted statements for the record:

Representative Scott Franklin of Florida, Representative Ken Calvert of California, and Concerned Veterans for America.

SUBCOMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

On July 23, 2025, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations was discharged from further consideration of this legislation.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

On July 23, 2025, the full Committee met in open markup session, to consider H.R. 1663. During consideration of the bill, the following amendments were offered:

An amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by Representative Jen Kiggans of Virginia that would make the VSAFE officer the central point of contact for scam prevention resources for veterans, clarify the updated title of the VSAFE website and the fraud hotline, and require VA to develop a whole-of-government approach at VA. The amendment in the nature of a substitute also included language to offset the cost of the bill. The amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to by voice vote.

An amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by Representative Delia Ramirez of Illinois would require the VSAFE Officer to focus efforts on specific fraudulent activities thereby removing the discretion of the

Secretary related to the activities of the office. This amendment failed by a recorded vote of 11 ayes, 12 noes.

A motion by Representative Bergman to report H.R. 1663, as amended, favorably to the House of Representatives, was agreed to by voice vote.

Committee Votes

In compliance with clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, one recorded vote was taken on amendments or in connection with ordering H.R. 1663, as amended, reported to the House.

An amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 1663 offered by Ms. Ramirez was not agreed to by a recorded vote of 11 ayes, 12 noes. The names of Members voting for and against follow:

ONE HUNDRED AND NINETEENTH CONGRESS **MARKUP**
U.S. STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
MIKE BOST, CHAIRMAN

FULL COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

Date: **Wednesday, July 23, 2025**
Subject: **Approval of Ramirez Amendment to the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute**

NAME	YEA/AYE	NAY/NO	Present
Mike Bost		X	
Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen		X	
Jack Bergman		X	
Nancy Mace		X	
Mariannette Miller-Meeks		X	
Gregory F. Murphy		X	
Derrick Van Orden			
Morgan Luttrell		X	
Juan Ciscomani			
Keith Self		X	
Jennifer A. Kiggans		X	
Abraham J. Hamadeh		X	
Kimberlyn King-Hinds		X	
Tom Barrett		X	
Mark Takano	X		
Julia Brownley	X		
Chris Pappas	X		
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick	X		
Morgan McGarvey	X		
Delia C. Ramirez	X		
Nikki Budzinski	X		
Timothy M. Kennedy	X		
Maxine Dexter	X		
Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.	X		
Kelly Morrison	X		
Total	**11**	**12**	

Committee Oversight Findings

In compliance with clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII and clause (2)(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee's oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the descriptive portions of this report.

Statement of General Performance Goals and Objectives

In accordance with clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee's performance goals and objectives of H.R. 1663, as amended, are to establish a VA Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Officer responsible for preventing, identifying, and reporting fraud and scams against veterans and ensuring that VA employees and veterans have the guidance and training to identify and avoid scam and fraud attempts.

Earmarks and Tax and Tariff Benefits

H.R.1663, as amended, does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Committee Cost Estimate

The Committee adopts as its own the cost estimate on H.R. 1663, as amended, prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

Budget Authority and Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate

Pursuant to clause (3)(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following is the cost estimate for H.R. 1663, as amended, provided by the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974:

H.R. 1663, Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Act of 2025
As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on July 23, 2025

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2025	2025-2030	2025-2035
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	-8
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	-8
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	5	12

Increases *net direct spending* in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes
		Mandate Effects	
Increases *on-budget deficits* in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

H.R 1663 would establish a Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Officer within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The bill also would reduce the amount of VA pensions the department pays to certain veterans and survivors who reside in nursing homes. Implementing the bill would increase spending subject to appropriation by $12 million and reduce direct spending by $8 million over the 2025–2035 period, CBO estimates. The budgetary effects of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 550 (health) and 700 (veterans benefits and services).

Spending subject to appropriation: Under the bill, the Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Officer would be responsible for coordinating efforts to protect veterans from frauds and scams. The officer would promote resources for preventing frauds and scams, provide training to department employees, and coordinate with similar efforts of other federal agencies. Using information from VA, CBO estimates the department would require four full-time equivalent employees (the new officer and three support staff) to satisfy the bill's requirements. Compensation, benefits, and operating expenses would total $1 million in 2026, CBO estimates. Including adjustments for inflation, CBO estimates those costs would total $12 million over the 2025–2035 period. Such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

TABLE 1.—ESTIMATED BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF H.R. 1663

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—												
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2025–2030	2025–2035
INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION													
Estimated Authorization	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	5	12
Estimated Outlays	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	5	12
DECREASES (−) IN DIRECT SPENDING													
Estimated Budget Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	−8	0	0	0	0	−8
Estimated Outlays	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	−8	0	0	0	0	−8

Direct spending: Under current law, VA reduces pension payments to veterans and survivors who reside in Medicaid nursing homes to $90 per month. That required reduction expires November 30, 2031. Section 3 of H.R. 1663 would extend that reduction for 61 days, through January 30, 2032. CBO estimates that extending that requirement would reduce VA benefits by $10 million per month. (Those benefits are paid from mandatory appropriations and are therefore considered direct spending.) As a result of that reduction in beneficiaries' income, Medicaid would pay more of the cost of their care, increasing spending for that program by $6 million per month. Thus, enacting section 3 would reduce net direct spending by $8 million over the 2025–2035 period.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Logan Smith. The estimate was reviewed by Christina Hawley Anthony, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director, Congressional Budget Office.

FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

Section 423 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act (as amended by Section 101(a)(2) of the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act, P.L. 104–4) is inapplicable to H.R. 1663, as amended.

Advisory Committee Statement

No advisory committees within the meaning of Section 5(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act would be created by H.R. 1663, as amended.

Applicability to the Legislative Branch

The Committee finds that H.R. 1663, as amended, does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

Statement on Duplication of Federal Programs

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee finds that no provision of H.R. 1663, as amended, would establish or reauthorize a program of the Federal Government known to be duplicative of another Federal program, a program that was included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of P.L. 111–139, or a program related to a program identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

Section-by-Section Analysis of the Legislation

Section 1: Short title

This section would establish the short title of the bill as the "Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Act of 2025," or the "VSAFE Act of 2025."

Section 2: Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Officer

This section would amend Chapter Three of title 38 United States Code by adding a new section.

The new section would establish a Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Officer who is responsible for fraud and scam prevention, reporting, and incident response plans at VA. This office would serve as the central point of contact for veterans and VA employees seeking resources to prevent fraud and scams.

This section would require the Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Officer to fulfill the following responsibilities: (1) provide comprehensive communication from VA to VA employees, and veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors during strategic and time-sensitive fraud and scam incidents; (2) establish consistent guidance for VA employees and veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors on how to identify, report, and avoid fraud and scam attempts; (3) promote the VSAFE Fraud Hotline and VSAFE.gov website, and identify other identity theft resources available to veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors, and other actions taken by the Secretary to protect the identities of veterans and their beneficiaries; (4) develop methods and metrics to monitor and track scam attempts within VA to provide internal and external reporting, enable advanced data analytics, and facilitate proactive and robust fraud and scam identification; (5) develop training for VA employees fielding fraud and scam inquiries and reports; (6) coordinate with the Office of the Inspector General of the VA and other federal departments and agencies to create a whole-of-government view within VA, identify proper avenues for veterans to report fraud attempts and receive assistance, and identify opportunities for coordination with other federal departments and agencies; and (7) consult with veteran service organizations and state, local, and tribal governments to improve the understanding of fraud and scam risk within VA.

This section would make it clear that an increase in the number of full-time employees is not authorized for VA.

Finally, it states that nothing in this section should be construed to limit the authority of the VA Inspector General as otherwise provided in Title 38 or in Chapter 4 of Title 5, United States Code.

Section 3: Modification of certain limits on payments of pension

This section would amend 38 U.S.C. § 5503(d)(7) by striking "November 30, 2031" and inserting "January 30, 2032."

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE

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PART I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

* * * * * * *

CHAPTER 3—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Sec.

* * * * * * *

§ 325. Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Officer

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is in the Department a Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Officer, who shall—

(1) be responsible for fraud and scam prevention, reporting, and incident response plans at the Department; and

(2) serve as a central point of contact to direct veterans to resources to prevent and mitigate fraud and scams.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Officer shall carry out the following responsibilities:

(1) Providing comprehensive communication from the Secretary to employees of the Department and veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors during strategic and time-sensitive fraud and scam incidents.

(2) Establishing consistent guidance across the enterprise for employees as well as veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors on how to identify, report, and avoid fraud and scam attempts.

(3) Promoting the VSAFE Fraud Hotline and VSAFE.gov website of the Department (and any successor resources) and identifying other identity theft resources available to veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors, including with respect to actions made by the Secretary to protect the identities of veterans and their beneficiaries.

(4) Developing methods to monitor fraud and scam metrics within the Department to—

(A) provide internal and external reporting;

(B) enable advanced data analytics; and

(C) facilitate proactive and robust fraud and scam trend identification.

(5) Developing comprehensive training plans for Department employees fielding fraud and scam inquiries and reports.

(6) Coordinating with the Inspector General of the Department and other Federal departments and agencies, including the Executive Office of the President, the Office of Management and Budget, the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Justice, the Department of State, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Department of Defense, the Department of Education, the Social Security Administration, and other relevant agencies to—

(A) develop a whole-of-Government view within the Department to improve fraud prevention efforts within the Department;

(B) identify the proper avenues for veterans to report fraud attempts and receive assistance; and

(C) identify opportunities for coordination with such departments and agencies.

(7) Consulting with veterans service organizations and State, local, and tribal governments, as necessary, to improve understanding of potential fraud and scam risks to veterans.

(c) FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES.—Nothing in this section authorizes an increase in the number of full-time employees otherwise authorized for the Department.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Office of Inspector General of the Department as otherwise provided in this title or in chapter 4 of title 5 (commonly referred to as the Inspector General Act of 1978).

*   *   *   *   *   *   *

PART IV—GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

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CHAPTER 55—MINORS, INCOMPETENTS, AND OTHER WARDS

* * * * * * *

§ 5503. Hospitalized veterans and estates of incompetent institutionalized veterans

(a)(1)(A) Where any veteran having neither spouse nor child is being furnished domiciliary care by the Department, no pension in excess of $90 per month shall be paid to or for the veteran for any period after the end of the third full calendar month following the month of admission for such care.

(B) Except as provided in subparagraph (D) of this paragraph, where any veteran having neither spouse nor child is being furnished nursing home care by the Department, no pension in excess of $90 per month shall be paid to or for the veteran for any period after the end of the third full calendar month following the month of admission for such care. Any amount in excess of $90 per month to which the veteran would be entitled but for the application of the preceding sentence shall be deposited in a revolving fund at the Department medical facility which furnished the veteran nursing care, and such amount shall be available for obligation without fiscal year limitation to help defray operating expenses of that facility.

(C) No pension in excess of $90 per month shall be paid to or for a veteran having neither spouse nor child for any period after the month in which such veteran is readmitted for care described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of this paragraph and furnished by the Department if such veteran is readmitted within six months of a period of care in connection with which pension was reduced pursuant to subparagraph (A) or (B) of this paragraph.

(D) In the case of a veteran being furnished nursing home care by the Department and with respect to whom subparagraph (B) of this paragraph requires a reduction in pension, such reduction shall not be made for a period of up to three additional calendar months after the last day of the third month referred to in such subparagraph if the Secretary determines that the primary purpose for the furnishing of such care during such additional period is for the Department to provide such veteran with a prescribed program of rehabilitation services, under chapter 17 of this title, designed to restore such veteran's ability to function within such veteran's family and community. If the Secretary determines that it is necessary, after such period, for the veteran to continue such program of rehabilitation services in order to achieve the purposes of such program and that the primary purpose of furnishing nursing home care to the veteran continues to be the provision of such program to the veteran, the reduction in pension required by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph shall not be made for the number of calendar months that the Secretary determines is necessary for the veteran to achieve the purposes of such program.

(2) The provisions of paragraph (1) shall also apply to a veteran being furnished such care who has a spouse but whose pension is payable under section 1521(b) of this title. In such a case, the Secretary may apportion and pay to the spouse, upon an affirmative showing of hardship, all or any part of the amounts in excess of the amount payable to the veteran while being furnished such care which would be payable to the veteran if pension were payable under section 1521(c) of this title.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section or any other provision of law, no reduction shall be made in the pension of any veteran for any part of the period during which the veteran is furnished hospital treatment, or institutional or domiciliary care, for Hansen's disease, by the United States or any political subdivision thereof.

(c) Where any veteran in receipt of an aid and attendance allowance described in subsection (r) or (t) of section 1114 of this title is hospitalized at Government expense, such allowance shall be discontinued from the first day of the second calendar month which begins after the date of the veteran's admission for such hospitalization for so long as such hospitalization continues. Any discontinuance required by administrative regulation, during hospitalization of a veteran by the Department, of increased pension based on need of regular aid and attendance or additional compensation based on need of regular aid and attendance as described in subsection (*l*) or (m) of section 1114 of this title, shall not be effective earlier than the first day of the second calendar month which begins after the date of the veteran's admission for hospitalization. In case a veteran affected by this subsection leaves a hospital against medical advice and is thereafter admitted to hospitalization within six months from the date of such departure, such allowance, increased pension, or additional compensation, as the case may be, shall be discontinued from the date of such readmission for so long as such hospitalization continues.

(d)(1) For the purposes of this subsection—

(A) the term "Medicaid plan" means a State plan for medical assistance referred to in section 1902(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)); and

(B) the term "nursing facility" means a nursing facility described in section 1919 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r), other than a facility that is a State home with respect to which the Secretary makes per diem payments for nursing home care pursuant to section 1741(a) of this title.

(2) If a veteran having neither spouse nor child is covered by a Medicaid plan for services furnished such veteran by a nursing facility, no pension in excess of $90 per month shall be paid to or for the veteran for any period after the month of admission to such nursing facility.

(3) Notwithstanding any provision of title XIX of the Social Security Act, the amount of the payment paid a nursing facility pursuant to a Medicaid plan for services furnished a veteran may not be reduced by any amount of pension permitted to be paid such veteran under paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(4) A veteran is not liable to the United States for any payment of pension in excess of the amount permitted under this subsection that is paid to or for the veteran by reason of the inability or fail-

ure of the Secretary to reduce the veteran's pension under this subsection unless such inability or failure is the result of a willful concealment by the veteran of information necessary to make a reduction in pension under this subsection.

(5)(A) The provisions of this subsection shall apply with respect to a surviving spouse having no child in the same manner as they apply to a veteran having neither spouse nor child.

(B) The provisions of this subsection shall apply with respect to a child entitled to pension under section 1542 of this title in the same manner as they apply to a veteran having neither spouse nor child.

(6) The costs of administering this subsection shall be paid for from amounts available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the payment of compensation and pension.

(7) This subsection expires on ⟦November 30, 2031⟧ *January 30, 2032*.

* * * * * * *

MINORITY VIEWS

At the full Committee markup on July 23, 2025, Representative Delia Ramirez (D–IL) introduced an Amendment to the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 1663, which would have required the Veteran Scam and Fraud Evasion (VSAFE) officer to educate veterans and their families on certain scams and fraudulent activities that target these communities specifically. These scams include:

- Multi-level marketing (MLM) businesses and pyramid schemes;
- Employment and career-training schemes;
- Credit bureau and credit card fraud;
- Investment schemes;
- Scams involving prizes, sweepstakes, and lotteries;
- Imposter scams, to include business, government, tech support, and familial impersonation scams;
- Fraudulent lending practices;
- Pension poaching;
- Disability benefits relating scams and fraudulent activities; and
- Romance scams.

These trainings were identified as potentially necessary through data published by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which reports on the top fraudulent activities and scams facing the military and veteran communities. The amendment also allowed the VSAFE officer to direct trainings over other topics that they deem necessary and would not "restrict the Secretary's ability to determine what the VSAFE officer's responsibilities would be," as Chairman Bost asserted at a full committee markup of the legislation.

This amendment would have simply built on the comprehensive work being completed across the federal government, and increased resources available to veterans and their families. Without this information sharing and additional training that is specific to their community, veterans may be more susceptible to specific harmful scam and fraud tactics that seek to take advantage of their benefits. By utilizing data and research collected by the professionals within the FTC, VA can ensure that it is providing complete and truthful information, and are able to focus on other tasks that the VSAFE Officer or the Secretary may deem necessary.

MARK TAKANO,
Ranking Member.