

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5985

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 9, 2016

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 2016”.

7 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
8 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 authority for collection of copayments for hospital care and nursing home care.
- Sec. 102. Extension of requirement to provide nursing home care to certain veterans with service-connected disabilities.
- Sec. 103. Extension of authorization of appropriations for assistance and support services for caregivers.
- Sec. 104. 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.
- Sec. 105. Extension of authority for pilot program on assistance for child care for certain veterans receiving health care.
- Sec. 106. Extension of authority to make grants to veterans service organizations for transportation of highly rural veterans.
- Sec. 107. Extension of authority for pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service.
- Sec. 108. Extension of deadline for report on pilot program on use of community-based organizations and local and State government entities to ensure that veterans receive care and benefits for which they are eligible.

TITLE II—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO BENEFITS

- Sec. 201. Extension of authority for the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education.
- Sec. 202. Extension of authority for calculating net value of real property at time of foreclosure.
- Sec. 203. Extension of authority relating to vendee loans.
- Sec. 204. Extension of authority to provide rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of the Armed Forces with severe injuries or illnesses.

TITLE III—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HOMELESS VETERANS

- Sec. 301. Extension of authority for homeless veterans reintegration programs.
- Sec. 302. Extension of authority for homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children reintegration program.
- Sec. 303. Extension of authority for referral and counseling services for veterans at risk of homelessness transitioning from certain institutions.
- Sec. 304. Extension of authority to provide housing assistance for homeless veterans.
- Sec. 305. Extension and modification of authority to provide financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing.
- Sec. 306. Extension of authority for grant program for homeless veterans with special needs.
- Sec. 307. Extension of authority for the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans.

Sec. 308. Extension of authority for treatment and rehabilitation services for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans.

TITLE IV—OTHER EXTENSIONS AND MODIFICATIONS OF AUTHORITY AND OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 401. Extension of authority for transportation of individuals to and from Department 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 authority for monthly assistance allowances under the Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events.

Sec. 404. Extension of requirement to provide reports to Congress regarding equitable relief in the case of administrative error.

Sec. 405. Extension of authorization of appropriations for adaptive sports programs for disabled veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

Sec. 406. Extension of authority for Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans.

Sec. 407. Modification to authorization of appropriations for comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans.

Sec. 408. Extension of authority for temporary expansion of eligibility for specially adapted housing assistance for certain veterans with disabilities causing difficulty ambulating.

Sec. 409. Extension of authority for specially adapted housing assistive technology grant program.

Sec. 410. Extension of authority to guarantee payment of principal and interest on certificates or other securities.

Sec. 411. Extension of authority to enter into agreement with the National Academy of Sciences regarding associations between diseases and exposure to dioxin and other chemical compounds in herbicides.

Sec. 412. Extension of authority for performance of medical disabilities examinations by contract physicians.

Sec. 413. Restoration of prior reporting fee multipliers.

Sec. 414. Extension of requirement for annual report on Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Interagency Program Office.

Sec. 415. Extension of scope of practice limits for certified registered nurse anesthetists.

Sec. 416. Extension of authority to approve courses of education in cases of withdrawal of recognition of accrediting agency by Secretary of Education.

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-

1 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a
 2 section or other provision of title 38, United States Code.

3 **SEC. 3. SCORING OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

4 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of
 5 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,
 6 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement
 7 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this
 8 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record
 9 by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-
 10 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the
 11 vote on passage.

12 **TITLE I—EXTENSIONS OF AU-**
 13 **THORITY RELATING TO**
 14 **HEALTH CARE**

15 **SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR COLLECTION OF**
 16 **COPAYMENTS FOR HOSPITAL CARE AND**
 17 **NURSING HOME CARE.**

18 Section 1710(f)(2)(B) is amended by striking “Sep-
 19 tember 30, 2016” and inserting “September 30, 2017”.

20 **SEC. 102. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE**
 21 **NURSING HOME CARE TO CERTAIN VET-**
 22 **ERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABIL-**
 23 **ITIES.**

24 Section 1710A(d) is amended by striking “December
 25 31, 2016” and inserting “December 31, 2017”.

1 **SEC. 103. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-**
2 **TIONS FOR ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT SERV-**
3 **ICES FOR CAREGIVERS.**

4 Section 1720G(e) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and”;

6 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at
7 the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

10 “(4) \$734,628,000 for fiscal year 2017.”.

11 **SEC. 104. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR RECOVERY FROM**
12 **THIRD PARTIES OF COST OF CARE AND SERV-**
13 **ICES FURNISHED TO VETERANS WITH**
14 **HEALTH-PLAN CONTRACTS FOR NON-SERV-**
15 **ICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY.**

16 Section 1729(a)(2)(E) is amended, in the matter pre-
17 ceding clause (i), by striking “October 1, 2016” and in-
18 serting “October 1, 2017”.

19 **SEC. 105. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PILOT PROGRAM**
20 **ON ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE FOR CER-**
21 **TAIN VETERANS RECEIVING HEALTH CARE.**

22 (a) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.—Subsection (e) of
23 section 205 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus
24 Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–163; 124
25 Stat. 1144; 38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is amended by striking

1 “December 31, 2016” and inserting “December 31,
2 2017”.

3 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Sub-
4 section (h) of such section is amended by striking “and
5 2016” and inserting “2016, and 2017”.

6 **SEC. 106. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS TO**
7 **VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS FOR**
8 **TRANSPORTATION OF HIGHLY RURAL VET-**
9 **ERANS.**

10 Section 307(d) of the Caregivers and Veterans Omni-
11 bus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–163;
12 124 Stat. 1154; 38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is amended by
13 striking “2016” and inserting “2017”.

14 **SEC. 107. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PILOT PROGRAM**
15 **ON COUNSELING IN RETREAT SETTINGS FOR**
16 **WOMEN VETERANS NEWLY SEPARATED FROM**
17 **SERVICE.**

18 (a) EXTENSION.—Subsection (d) of section 203 of
19 the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act
20 of 2010 (Public Law 111–163; 124 Stat. 1143; 38 U.S.C.
21 1712A) is amended by striking “December 31, 2016” and
22 inserting “December 31, 2017”.

23 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Sub-
24 section (f) of such section is amended by striking “and
25 2016” and inserting “2016, and 2017”.

1 **SEC. 108. EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR REPORT ON PILOT**
 2 **PROGRAM ON USE OF COMMUNITY-BASED**
 3 **ORGANIZATIONS AND LOCAL AND STATE**
 4 **GOVERNMENT ENTITIES TO ENSURE THAT**
 5 **VETERANS RECEIVE CARE AND BENEFITS**
 6 **FOR WHICH THEY ARE ELIGIBLE.**

7 Section 506(g)(1) of the Caregivers and Veterans
 8 Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–
 9 163; 38 U.S.C. 523 note) is amended by striking “180
 10 days after the completion of the pilot program” and insert-
 11 ing “September 30, 2017”.

12 **TITLE II—EXTENSIONS OF AU-**
 13 **THORITY RELATING TO BENE-**
 14 **FITS**

15 **SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR THE VETERANS’**
 16 **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.**

17 Section 3692(c) is amended by striking “December
 18 31, 2016” and inserting “December 31, 2017”.

19 **SEC. 202. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR CALCULATING**
 20 **NET VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY AT TIME OF**
 21 **FORECLOSURE.**

22 Section 3732(c)(11) is amended by striking “October
 23 1, 2016” and inserting “October 1, 2017”.

24 **SEC. 203. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO VEND-**
 25 **EE LOANS.**

26 Section 3733(a)(7) is amended—

1 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),
2 by striking “September 30, 2016” and inserting
3 “September 30, 2017”; and

4 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “Sep-
5 tember 30, 2016,” and inserting “September 30,
6 2017,”.

7 **SEC. 204. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE REHA-**
8 **BILITATION AND VOCATIONAL BENEFITS TO**
9 **MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WITH SE-**
10 **VERE INJURIES OR ILLNESSES.**

11 Section 1631(b)(2) of the Wounded Warrior Act (title
12 XVI of Public Law 110–181; 122 Stat. 458; 10 U.S.C.
13 1071 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2016”
14 and inserting “December 31, 2017”.

15 **TITLE III—EXTENSIONS OF AU-**
16 **THORITY RELATING TO**
17 **HOMELESS VETERANS**

18 **SEC. 301. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR HOMELESS VET-**
19 **ERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS.**

20 Section 2021(e)(1)(F) is amended by striking
21 “2016” and inserting “2017”.

1 **SEC. 302. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR HOMELESS**
2 **WOMEN VETERANS AND HOMELESS VET-**
3 **ERANS WITH CHILDREN REINTEGRATION**
4 **PROGRAM.**

5 Section 2021A(f)(1) is amended by striking “2016”
6 and inserting “2017”.

7 **SEC. 303. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR REFERRAL AND**
8 **COUNSELING SERVICES FOR VETERANS AT**
9 **RISK OF HOMELESSNESS TRANSITIONING**
10 **FROM CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS.**

11 Section 2023(d) is amended by striking “September
12 30, 2016” and inserting “September 30, 2017”.

13 **SEC. 304. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE HOUS-**
14 **ING ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.**

15 Section 2041(c) is amended by striking “September
16 30, 2016” and inserting “September 30, 2017”.

17 **SEC. 305. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY**
18 **TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR**
19 **SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VERY LOW-IN-**
20 **COME VETERAN FAMILIES IN PERMANENT**
21 **HOUSING.**

22 Subparagraph (E) of section 2044(e)(1) is amended
23 to read as follows:

24 “(E) \$320,000,000 for each of fiscal years
25 2015 through 2017.”.

1 **SEC. 306. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR GRANT PRO-**
2 **GRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS WITH SPE-**
3 **CIAL NEEDS.**

4 Section 2061(d)(1) is amended by striking “2016”
5 and inserting “2017”.

6 **SEC. 307. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR THE ADVISORY**
7 **COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS VETERANS.**

8 Section 2066(d) is amended by striking “December
9 31, 2016” and inserting “December 31, 2017”.

10 **SEC. 308. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TREATMENT AND**
11 **REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR SERIOUSLY**
12 **MENTALLY ILL AND HOMELESS VETERANS.**

13 (a) GENERAL TREATMENT.—Section 2031(b) is
14 amended by striking “September 30, 2016” and inserting
15 “September 30, 2017”.

16 (b) ADDITIONAL SERVICES AT CERTAIN LOCA-
17 TIONS.—Section 2033(d) is amended by striking “Sep-
18 tember 30, 2016” and inserting “September 30, 2017”.

1 **TITLE IV—OTHER EXTENSIONS**
2 **AND MODIFICATIONS OF AU-**
3 **THORITY AND OTHER MAT-**
4 **TERS**

5 **SEC. 401. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TRANSPOR-**
6 **TATION OF INDIVIDUALS TO AND FROM DE-**
7 **PARTMENT FACILITIES.**

8 Section 111A(a)(2) is amended by striking “Decem-
9 ber 31, 2016” and inserting “December 31, 2017”.

10 **SEC. 402. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR OPERATION OF**
11 **THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
12 **REGIONAL OFFICE IN MANILA, THE REPUB-**
13 **LIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.**

14 Section 315(b) is amended by striking “September
15 30, 2016” and inserting “September 30, 2017”.

16 **SEC. 403. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR MONTHLY AS-**
17 **SISTANCE ALLOWANCES UNDER THE OFFICE**
18 **OF NATIONAL VETERANS SPORTS PROGRAMS**
19 **AND SPECIAL EVENTS.**

20 Section 322(d)(4) is amended by striking “2016” and
21 inserting “2017”.

1 **SEC. 404. 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 2016” and inserting “December 31, 2017”.

7 **SEC. 405. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-**
8 **TIONS FOR ADAPTIVE SPORTS PROGRAMS**
9 **FOR DISABLED VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF**
10 **THE ARMED FORCES.**

11 Section 521A is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “2016”
13 and inserting “2017”; and

14 (2) in subsection (l), by striking “2016” and in-
15 serting “2017”.

16 **SEC. 406. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR ADVISORY COM-**
17 **MITTEE ON MINORITY VETERANS.**

18 Section 544(e) is amended by striking “December 31,
19 2016” and inserting “December 31, 2017”.

20 **SEC. 407. MODIFICATION TO AUTHORIZATION OF APPRO-**
21 **PRIATIONS FOR COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE**
22 **PROGRAMS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.**

23 Section 2013(7) is amended by striking
24 “\$250,000,000” and inserting “\$257,700,000”.

1 **SEC. 408. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TEMPORARY EX-**
2 **PANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SPECIALLY**
3 **ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR CER-**
4 **TAIN VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES CAUSING**
5 **DIFFICULTY AMBULATING.**

6 Section 2101(a)(4) is amended—

7 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “Sep-
8 tember 30, 2016” and inserting “September 30,
9 2017”; and

10 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “2016”
11 and inserting “2017”.

12 **SEC. 409. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR SPECIALLY**
13 **ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY**
14 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

15 Section 2108(g) is amended by striking “September
16 30, 2016” and inserting “September 30, 2017”.

17 **SEC. 410. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO GUARANTEE PAY-**
18 **MENT OF PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON CER-**
19 **TIFICATES OR OTHER SECURITIES.**

20 Section 3720(h)(2) is amended by striking “Decem-
21 ber 31, 2016” and inserting “December 31, 2017”.

1 **SEC. 411. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO**
2 **AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL ACADEMY**
3 **OF SCIENCES REGARDING ASSOCIATIONS BE-**
4 **TWEEN DISEASES AND EXPOSURE TO DIOXIN**
5 **AND OTHER CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS IN HER-**
6 **BICIDES.**

7 Section 3(i) of the Agent Orange Act of 1991 (Public
8 Law 102–4; 38 U.S.C. 1116 note) is amended by striking
9 “December 31, 2016” and inserting “December 31,
10 2017”.

11 **SEC. 412. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PERFORMANCE**
12 **OF MEDICAL DISABILITIES EXAMINATIONS**
13 **BY CONTRACT PHYSICIANS.**

14 Subsection (c) of section 704 of the Veterans Benefits
15 Act of 2003 (38 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended by striking
16 “December 31, 2016” and inserting “December 31,
17 2017”.

18 **SEC. 413. RESTORATION OF PRIOR REPORTING FEE MULTI-**
19 **PLIERS.**

20 Section 406 of the Department of Veterans Affairs
21 Expiring Authorities Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–175;
22 38 U.S.C. 3684 note) is amended by striking “two-year”
23 and inserting “three-year”.

1 **SEC. 414. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL RE-**
2 **PORT ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE-DE-**
3 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS INTER-**
4 **AGENCY PROGRAM OFFICE.**

5 Section 1635(h)(1) of the National Defense Author-
6 ization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110–181;
7 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) is amended by striking “2016” and
8 inserting “2017”.

9 **SEC. 415. EXTENSION OF SCOPE OF PRACTICE LIMITS FOR**
10 **CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANES-**
11 **THETISTS.**

12 During the one-year period beginning on the date of
13 the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Af-
14 fairs may not authorize certified registered nurse anes-
15 thetists of the Department of Veterans Affairs to practice
16 without the supervision of a physician or otherwise expand
17 the scope of full practice authority for certified registered
18 nurse anesthetists beyond what is authorized under the
19 applicable regulations, as in effect on the date of enact-
20 ment of this Act.

21 **SEC. 416. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO APPROVE**
22 **COURSES OF EDUCATION IN CASES OF WITH-**
23 **DRAWAL OF RECOGNITION OF ACCREDITING**
24 **AGENCY BY SECRETARY OF EDUCATION.**

25 Section 3679(a) of title 38, United States Code, is
26 amended—

1 (1) by striking “Any course” and inserting “(1)
2 Except as provided by paragraph (2), any course”;
3 and

4 (2) by adding at the end the following new
5 paragraph:

6 “(2) In the case of a course of education that would
7 be subject to disapproval under paragraph (1) solely for
8 the reason that the Secretary of Education withdraws the
9 recognition of the accrediting agency that accredited the
10 course, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation
11 with the Secretary of Education, and notwithstanding the
12 withdrawal, may continue to treat the course as an ap-
13 proved course of education under this chapter for a period
14 not to exceed 18 months from the date of the withdrawal
15 of recognition of the accrediting agency, unless the Sec-
16 retary of Veterans Affairs or the appropriate State ap-
17 proving agency determines that there is evidence to sup-
18 port the disapproval of the course under this chapter. The
19 Secretary shall provide to any veteran enrolled in such a
20 course of education notice of the status of the course of
21 education.”.

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