

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5420

To amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain authorities and requirements relating to health care and benefits furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

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

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain authorities and requirements relating to health care and benefits furnished by the Department 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       “VA Extenders Act of 2025”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

- 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 Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program.
- Sec. 104. Extension of funding for expansion of Rural Access Network for Growth Enhancement Program.

#### TITLE II—BENEFITS

- Sec. 201. Extension of requirement for quarterly briefings on administration of authorities relating to determinations regarding presumptions of service connection based on toxic exposure.
- Sec. 202. Extension of requirement relating to restoration of entitlement to educational assistance in cases of closure or disapproval of educational institutions.
- Sec. 203. Extension of temporary clarification of licensure requirements for contractor medical professionals to perform medical disability examinations for the Department of Veterans Affairs under pilot program for use of contract physicians for disability examinations.
- Sec. 204. Extension of authority to maintain regional office in Republic of Philippines.

#### TITLE III—HOUSING

- Sec. 301. Extension of authorization of appropriations for homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children reintegration grant program.
- Sec. 302. Extension of authority for treatment and rehabilitation for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans.
- Sec. 303. Extension of funding for financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing.
- Sec. 304. Extension of funding for grant program for homeless veterans with special needs.
- Sec. 305. Extension of authority to provide assistance for specially adapted housing for disabled veterans residing temporarily in housing owned by a family member.
- Sec. 306. Extension of authority for specially adapted housing assistive technology grant program.
- Sec. 307. Improvements to Partial Claim Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 308. Government Accountability Office reports on Partial Claim Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs and other matters.

#### TITLE IV—OTHER MATTERS

- Sec. 401. Extension of subpoena authority of Inspector General of Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 402. Extension of requirement for annual report on use of authority to provide equitable relief.
- Sec. 403. Extension of authority for Secretary of Veterans Affairs to transport individuals to and from facilities of Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 404. Extension of authority relating to vendee loan program.

Sec. 405. Extension of authority for transfer of real property.

# **TITLE I—HEALTH CARE MATTERS**

## **SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR COLLECTION OF COPAYMENTS FOR HOSPITAL CARE AND NURSING HOME CARE.**

Section 1710(f)(2)(B) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

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

Section 1710A(d) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

## **SEC. 103. EXTENSION OF STAFF SERGEANT PARKER GOR- DON FOX SUICIDE PREVENTION GRANT PRO- GRAM.**

Section 201 of the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019 (Public Law 116–171; 38 U.S.C. 1720F note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (j), by striking “the date that is three years after the date on which the first grant

1 is awarded under this section” and inserting “Sep-  
 2 tember 30, 2026”; and

3 (2) in subsection (p), by striking “2025” and  
 4 inserting “September 30, 2026”.

5 **SEC. 104. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR EXPANSION OF**  
 6 **RURAL ACCESS NETWORK FOR GROWTH EN-**  
 7 **HANCEMENT PROGRAM.**

8 Section 2(d) of the Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans  
 9 Mental Health Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–21; 38  
 10 U.S.C. 1712A note) is amended by striking “2025” and  
 11 inserting “2026”.

12 **TITLE II—BENEFITS**

13 **SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT FOR QUARTERLY**  
 14 **BRIEFINGS ON ADMINISTRATION OF AU-**  
 15 **THORITIES RELATING TO DETERMINATIONS**  
 16 **REGARDING PRESUMPTIONS OF SERVICE**  
 17 **CONNECTION BASED ON TOXIC EXPOSURE.**

18 Section 202(b)(2) of the Sergeant First Class Heath  
 19 Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehen-  
 20 sive Toxics Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–168) is amended  
 21 by striking “On a quarterly basis during the two-year pe-  
 22 riod beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act,”  
 23 and inserting “On a quarterly basis during the period be-  
 24 ginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and end-  
 25 ing on December 31, 2026”.

1 **SEC. 202. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT RELATING TO RES-**  
2 **TORATION OF ENTITLEMENT TO EDU-**  
3 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN CASES OF CLO-**  
4 **SURE OR DISAPPROVAL OF EDUCATIONAL IN-**  
5 **STITUTIONS.**

6 Section 3699(c)(2)(C) of title 38, United States  
7 Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and  
8 inserting “September 30, 2026”.

9 **SEC. 203. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY CLARIFICATION OF**  
10 **LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR CON-**  
11 **TRACTOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS TO PER-**  
12 **FORM MEDICAL DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS**  
13 **FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**  
14 **FAIRS UNDER PILOT PROGRAM FOR USE OF**  
15 **CONTRACT PHYSICIANS FOR DISABILITY EX-**  
16 **AMINATIONS.**

17 Section 2002(a)(4) of the Johnny Isakson and David  
18 P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improve-  
19 ment Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–315; 38 U.S.C. 5101  
20 note) is amended by striking “five years” and inserting  
21 “six years”.

1 **SEC. 204. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO MAINTAIN RE-**  
2 **GIONAL OFFICE IN REPUBLIC OF PHIL-**  
3 **IPPINES.**

4 Section 315(b) of title 38, United States Code, is  
5 amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting  
6 “September 30, 2026”.

7 **TITLE III—HOUSING**

8 **SEC. 301. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-**  
9 **TIONS FOR HOMELESS WOMEN VETERANS**  
10 **AND HOMELESS VETERANS WITH CHILDREN**  
11 **REINTEGRATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

12 Section 2021A(f)(1) of title 38, United States Code,  
13 is amended by striking “2025” and inserting “2026”.

14 **SEC. 302. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TREATMENT AND**  
15 **REHABILITATION FOR SERIOUSLY MENTALLY**  
16 **ILL AND HOMELESS VETERANS.**

17 (a) GENERAL TREATMENT.—Section 2031(b) of title  
18 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “Sep-

19 tember 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

20 (b) ADDITIONAL SERVICES AT CERTAIN LOCA-

21 TIONS.—Section 2033(d) of title 38, United States Code,  
22 is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and insert-

23 ing “September 30, 2026”.

1 **SEC. 303. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR FINANCIAL ASSIST-**  
2 **ANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VERY**  
3 **LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES IN PERMA-**  
4 **NENT HOUSING.**

5 Section 2044(e)(8) of title 38, United States Code,  
6 is amended by striking “2025” and inserting “2026”.

7 **SEC. 304. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR GRANT PROGRAM**  
8 **FOR HOMELESS VETERANS WITH SPECIAL**  
9 **NEEDS.**

10 Section 2061(d)(1) of title 38, United States Code,  
11 is amended by striking “2025” and inserting “2026”.

12 **SEC. 305. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE ASSIST-**  
13 **ANCE FOR SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING**  
14 **FOR DISABLED VETERANS RESIDING TEMPO-**  
15 **RARILY IN HOUSING OWNED BY A FAMILY**  
16 **MEMBER.**

17 Section 2102A(e) of title 38, United States Code, is  
18 amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting  
19 “September 30, 2026”.

20 **SEC. 306. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR SPECIALLY**  
21 **ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY**  
22 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

23 Section 2108(g) of title 38, United States Code, is  
24 amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting  
25 “September 30, 2026”.

1 **SEC. 307. IMPROVEMENTS TO PARTIAL CLAIM PROGRAM**  
2 **OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**  
3 **FAIRS.**

4 (a) CLARIFICATION OF RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER  
5 POWERS OF SECRETARY.—Section 3720(h) of title 38,  
6 United States Code, is amended by striking “of subsection  
7 (a)” and all that follows through the period at the end  
8 and inserting “of subsection (a) in conjunction with the  
9 purchase of a loan under section 3732(a)(2) of this title  
10 unless the Secretary determines the purchase would be  
11 made consistent with section 3732(d) of this title.”.

12 (b) ADMINISTRATION OF PARTIAL CLAIM PRO-  
13 GRAM.—Section 3737 of such title is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “first lien  
15 guaranteed loan for such property” and inserting  
16 “amount of indebtedness under the guaranteed loan  
17 that the Secretary does not purchase”; and

18 (2) in subsection (c)—

19 (A) in paragraph (2)(B)(ii), by striking  
20 “120 days” and inserting “180 days”; and

21 (B) by amending paragraph (3) to read as  
22 follows:

23 “(3) An amount paid to the holder of a loan as a  
24 partial claim—

25 “(A) shall not alter the guaranty calculation  
26 specified by section 3703 of this title;



1           “(B) shall be included, for the purpose of a liq-  
2           uidation sale, in the same manner as any other ad-  
3           vance allowed by the Secretary; and

4           “(C) shall not be claimed under the guaranty or  
5           increase the Secretary’s cost of acquisition of the  
6           property securing the defaulted loan.”.

7           (c) REQUIREMENTS OF LOAN HOLDER.—Section  
8           (d)(1) of such section is amending by inserting “and serv-  
9           icing the loan” after “documents”.

10          (d) DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE.—Subsection (e)  
11          of such section is amended—

12               (1) in paragraph (1)—

13                       (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “an  
14                       individual who” and all that follows through the  
15                       period at the end and inserting the following:  
16                       “a borrower who defaults on a partial claim  
17                       shall be liable to the Secretary for any loss suf-  
18                       fered by the Secretary with respect to such de-  
19                       fault, and such loss may be recovered in the  
20                       same manner as any other debt due the United  
21                       States. The Secretary shall not restore housing  
22                       loan entitlement under section 3702(b) of this  
23                       title until such loss is repaid in full.”; and

24                       (B) by amending subparagraph (B) to read  
25                       as follows:

1 “(B) The Secretary may charge administrative costs,  
2 fees, and interest, as appropriate, with respect to any de-  
3 fault under a partial claim in a manner similar to the in-  
4 terest and administrative costs charged under section  
5 5315 of this title.”; and

6 (2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as fol-  
7 lows:

8 “(2) Notwithstanding section 2410 of title 28, a non-  
9 judicial sale of real property to satisfy a loan guaranteed  
10 under this chapter shall discharge the property from a  
11 partial claim interest held by the Secretary, provided that  
12 the holder of the guaranteed loan conducts the non-judi-  
13 cial sale and distributes the sale proceeds, if any, in ac-  
14 cordance with the State or local law where such property  
15 is situated.”.

16 (e) GUIDANCE IN ADVANCE OF REGULATIONS.—Sub-  
17 section (h) of such section is amended to read as follows:

18 “(h) GUIDANCE IN ADVANCE OF REGULATIONS.—  
19 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary  
20 may, before prescribing regulations, issue administrative  
21 guidance with respect to the Partial Claim Program under  
22 this section and the loss mitigation options prescribed  
23 under section 3732(d) of this title, including any addi-  
24 tional terms, conditions, and requirements the Secretary  
25 determines necessary.”.

1 **SEC. 308. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE RE-**  
2 **PORTS ON PARTIAL CLAIM PROGRAM OF THE**  
3 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND**  
4 **OTHER MATTERS.**

5 (a) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year  
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and  
8 every year thereafter until the Partial Claim Pro-  
9 gram terminates, the Comptroller General of the  
10 United States shall submit to the Committee on Vet-  
11 erans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on  
12 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a  
13 report.

14 (2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by para-  
15 graph (1) shall include, for the period covered by the  
16 report and disaggregated by quarter, the following:

17 (A) Key data on the performance of the  
18 Partial Claim Program, including—

19 (i) the number of partial claims filed  
20 and approved; and

21 (ii) the redefault and foreclosure rates  
22 of loans for which a partial claim was  
23 made.

24 (B) A comparison of the data described in  
25 subparagraph (A) with data on the performance

1 of other loss mitigation options provided by the  
2 Department of Veterans Affairs.

3 (C) The number of housing loans insured,  
4 guaranteed, or made by the Secretary of Vet-  
5 erans Affairs under chapter 37 of title 38,  
6 United States Code.

7 (D) The number of applications for hous-  
8 ing loan benefits under such chapter denied.

9 (E) The number of housing loans insured,  
10 guaranteed, or made by the Secretary under  
11 such chapter refinanced under section  
12 3710(a)(8) or 3712 of title 38, United States  
13 Code.

14 (F) The number of veterans who owe a  
15 payment on a mortgage associated with a loan  
16 insured, guaranteed, or made by the Secretary  
17 under such chapter that is at least—

18 (i) 60 days late; and

19 (ii) 90 days late.

20 (b) ASSESSMENT.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year be-  
22 fore the Partial Claim Program terminates, the  
23 Comptroller General shall—

1 (A) conduct an assessment of the benefits  
2 and challenges of the Partial Claim Program;  
3 and

4 (B) submit to the Committee on Veterans'  
5 Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on  
6 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representa-  
7 tives a report on the findings of the Comptroller  
8 General with respect to that assessment.

9 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the as-  
10 sessment required by paragraph (1), the Comptroller  
11 General shall consider the following:

12 (A) The characteristics of borrowers for  
13 whom a partial claim was made compared to  
14 the characteristics of borrowers provided other  
15 loss mitigation options by the Department of  
16 Veterans Affairs.

17 (B) The performance of loans guaranteed  
18 under chapter 37 of title 38, United States  
19 Code, following various loss mitigation actions.

20 (C) The information the Department con-  
21 sidered in determining whether a borrower  
22 would benefit from a partial claim compared to  
23 other loss mitigation options.

24 (D) The costs to taxpayers of the Partial  
25 Claim Program compared to the costs of other

1 loss mitigation options provided by the Depart-  
2 ment.

3 (E) Any similarities and differences in the  
4 Department's administration and use of the  
5 Partial Claim Program compared to the De-  
6 partment's administration and use of the  
7 COVID-19 Veterans Assistance Partial Claim  
8 Payment program established under subpart F  
9 of part 36 of title 38, Code of Regulations.

10 (F) The information the Department  
11 learned from the COVID-19 Veterans Assist-  
12 ance Partial Claim Payment program and the  
13 extent to which those lessons learned were ap-  
14 plied to the Partial Claim Program.

15 (G) The types of information the Depart-  
16 ment collected to monitor the performance and  
17 effectiveness of the Partial Claim Program and  
18 how the Department used that information to  
19 make any needed adjustments to the program.

20 (H) How the use by the Department of  
21 partial claims compares to the use of partial  
22 claims by other Federal housing agencies, in-  
23 cluding, for each partial claim program—

24 (i) the volume of loans for which par-  
25 tial claims have been made;

- 1 (ii) the results for borrowers (includ-  
2 ing redefault and foreclosure rates); and  
3 (iii) the costs to taxpayers.

4 (c) PARTIAL CLAIM PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this  
5 section, the term “Partial Claim Program” means the  
6 Partial Claim Program of the Department of Veterans Af-  
7 fairs carried out under section 3737 of title 38, United  
8 States Code.

## 9 **TITLE IV—OTHER MATTERS**

### 10 **SEC. 401. EXTENSION OF SUBPOENA AUTHORITY OF IN-** 11 **SPECTOR GENERAL OF DEPARTMENT OF** 12 **VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

13 Section 312(d)(7)(A) of title 38, United States Code,  
14 is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and insert-  
15 ing “September 30, 2026”.

### 16 **SEC. 402. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL RE-** 17 **PORT ON USE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE** 18 **EQUITABLE RELIEF.**

19 Section 503(c) of title 38, United States Code, is  
20 amended by striking “December 31, 2025” and inserting  
21 “December 31, 2026”.

1 **SEC. 403. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR SECRETARY OF**  
2 **VETERANS AFFAIRS TO TRANSPORT INDIVID-**  
3 **UALS TO AND FROM FACILITIES OF DEPART-**  
4 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

5 Section 111A(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code,  
6 is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and insert-  
7 ing “September 30, 2026”.

8 **SEC. 404. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO VEND-**  
9 **EE LOAN PROGRAM.**

10 Section 3733(a)(8) of title 38, United States Code,  
11 is amended—

12 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),  
13 by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting  
14 “September 30, 2026”; and

15 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “Sep-  
16 tember 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30,  
17 2026”.

18 **SEC. 405. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TRANSFER OF**  
19 **REAL PROPERTY.**

20 Section 8118(a)(5) of title 38, United States Code,  
21 is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and insert-  
22 ing “September 30, 2026”.

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