

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3147

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the Veterans Beneficiary Travel Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 30, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida (for herself, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. OWENS, Mr. FOLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, and Mr. JONES of North Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the Veterans Beneficiary Travel Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Road to
5 Health Care Act of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENT OF VETERANS BENEFICIARY TRAV-**
7 **EL PROGRAM.**

8 (a) PAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN ADDITIONAL MEDICAL
9 CARE.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 111(b)(1) of title
2 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at
3 the end the following:

4 “(G) A veteran whose travel is in connection
5 with treatment or care for a non-service-connected
6 disability at a non-Department facility, if the treat-
7 ment or care—

8 “(i) is provided upon the recommendation
9 of medical personnel of a Department medical
10 center or clinic; and

11 “(ii) is not available at the Department
12 medical center or clinic at which such rec-
13 ommendation is made.”.

14 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subparagraph (G) of
15 section 111(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, as
16 added by paragraph (1), shall apply only with re-
17 spect to travel performed on or after the later of—

18 (A) October 1, 2005; or

19 (B) the date of the enactment of this Act.

20 (b) CALCULATION OF EXPENSES OF TRAVEL.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
22 provision of law, in calculating expenses of travel for
23 purposes of the Veterans Beneficiary Travel Pro-
24 gram, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall use the
25 mileage reimbursement rates for the use of privately

1 owned vehicles by Government employees on official
2 business, as prescribed by the Administrator of Gen-
3 eral Services under section 5707(b) of title 5, United
4 States Code.

5 (2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
6 “Veterans Beneficiary Travel Program” means the
7 program of payment or reimbursement for necessary
8 expenses of travel of veterans and their beneficiaries
9 prescribed under sections 111 and 1728 of title 38,
10 United States Code, and under any other provision
11 of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Af-
12 fairs for payment or reimbursement for such ex-
13 penses of travel.

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