

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 996

To improve the Veterans Beneficiary Travel Program of the Department
of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 11, 2005

Mr. BURNS (for himself, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. THUNE) introduced the following
bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

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 the Department; and

10 “(ii) is not available at the Department fa-
 11 cility at which such recommendation is made.”.

12 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
 13 by paragraph (1) shall take effect on October 1,
 14 2005, and shall apply with respect to fiscal years
 15 after fiscal year 2005.

16 (b) CALCULATION OF EXPENSES OF TRAVEL.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
 18 provision of law, in calculating expenses of travel for
 19 purposes of the Veterans Beneficiary Travel Pro-
 20 gram, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall utilize
 21 the mileage reimbursement rates for the use on offi-
 22 cial business of privately owned vehicles, as pre-
 23 scribed by the Administrator of General Services
 24 under section 5707(b) of title 5, United States Code.

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

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