110TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

S. 2984

To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand and enhance veterans' benefits, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

May 6, 2008

Mr. Akaka (by request) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand and enhance veterans' benefits, 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 "Veterans' Benefits Enhancement Act of 2008".
- 6 (b) Table of Contents for
- 7 this Act is as follows:
 - Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
 - Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.

TITLE I—EDUCATION MATTERS

Sec. 101. Elimination of reporting requirement for prior training.

- Sec. 102. Modification of waiting period before affirmation of enrollment in a correspondence course.
- Sec. 103. Elimination of change-of-program application.
- Sec. 104. Elimination of wage earning requirement for self-employment on-job training.

TITLE II—OTHER BENEFITS MATTERS

- Sec. 201. Staying of claims.
- Sec. 202. Management of Board of Veterans' Appeals Docket.
- Sec. 203. Authorization of memorial headstones and markers for deceased remarried surviving spouses of veterans.
- Sec. 204. Permanent authority for VA to fund contract medical disability examinations.
- Sec. 205. Modification of servicemembers' group life insurance coverage.
- Sec. 206. Permit VA to provide Temporary Residence Assistance Grants to certain active duty servicemembers.
- Sec. 207. Designation of VA Office of Small Business Programs.

TITLE III—HEALTH CARE MATTERS

- Sec. 301. Noninstitutional extended care services.
- Sec. 302. Extensions of certain authorities.
- Sec. 303. Permanent authority for veterans who participated in certain chemical and biological testing conducted by the Department of Defense.
- Sec. 304. Repeal of certain annual reporting requirements.
- Sec. 305. Amendments to annual Gulf War research report.
- Sec. 306. Payment for care furnished to CHAMPVA beneficiaries.
- Sec. 307. Payor provisions for care furnished to certain children of Vietnam veterans.
- Sec. 308. Disclosures from certain medical records.
- Sec. 309. Provision of health-plan contract information and Social Security number.

TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- Sec. 401. Expansion of authority for Department of Veterans Affairs police officers.
- Sec. 402. Uniform allowance for Department of Veterans Affairs police officers.
- Sec. 403. Increase in threshold for major medical facility leases requiring Congressional approval.

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 or repeal to a section or other provision,
- 5 the reference shall be considered to be made to a section
- 6 or other provision of title 38, United States Code.

TITLE I—EDUCATION MATTERS

2	SEC. 101. ELIMINATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR
3	PRIOR TRAINING.
4	Section 3676(c)(4) is amended by striking "and the
5	Secretary".
6	SEC. 102. MODIFICATION OF WAITING PERIOD BEFORE AF-
7	FIRMATION OF ENROLLMENT IN A COR-
8	RESPONDENCE COURSE.
9	Section 3686(b) is amended by striking "ten" and in-
10	serting "five".
11	SEC. 103. ELIMINATION OF CHANGE-OF-PROGRAM APPLI-
12	CATION.
13	Section 3691(d) is amended—
14	(1) by inserting "(1)" following "another pro-
15	gram if—'';
16	(2) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3),
17	and (4) as subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D);
18	(3) at the end of subparagraph (C), as redesig-
19	nated by paragraph (2) of this section, by striking
20	"or"; and
21	(4) by striking the period and inserting "; or
22	"(2) the change from one program to another
23	is at the same educational institution and that edu-
24	cational institution finds that the new program is
25	suitable to the veteran's or person's aptitudes, inter-

1	ests, and abilities as shall be evidenced by its certifi-
2	cation to the Secretary of such veteran's or person's
3	enrollment in the new program.
4	In the case of a change of program described in paragraph
5	(2), the veteran or person will not be required to apply
6	to the Secretary for approval of such change.".
7	SEC. 104. ELIMINATION OF WAGE EARNING REQUIREMENT
8	FOR SELF-EMPLOYMENT ON-JOB TRAINING.
9	Section 3677(b) is amended by adding at the end the
10	following new paragraph:
11	"(3) The requirement for certification under
12	paragraph (1) shall not apply to training described
13	in section 3452(e)(2).".
14	TITLE II—OTHER BENEFITS
15	MATTERS
16	SEC. 201. STAYING OF CLAIMS.
17	(a) In General.—Chapter 5 is amended by insert-
18	ing before section 502 the following new section:
19	"§ 501A. Staying of claims
20	"(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title,
21	the Secretary may temporarily stay the adjudication of a
22	claim or claims before the Board of Veterans' Appeals or
23	an agency of original jurisdiction when the Secretary de-
24	termines that the stay is necessary to preserve the integ-
25	rity of a program administered under this title.

- 1 "(b) The Secretary shall issue regulations describing
- 2 the factors the Secretary will consider in determining
- 3 whether and to what extent a stay is warranted.
- 4 "(c) A claimant or claimants may petition for review
- 5 of an action under a regulation prescribed in accordance
- 6 with this section. Such review may be sought only in the
- 7 United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit,
- 8 which may set aside such action if it determines that the
- 9 action is arbitrary and capricious.".
- 10 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
- 11 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
- 12 after the item relating to section 501 the following new
- 13 item: "501A. Staying of claims.".
- (c) Effective Date.—The provisions of section
- 15 501A, as added by subsection (a) of this section, shall
- 16 apply to—
- 17 (1) any claim for benefits under any law admin-
- istered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that is
- received by the Department of Veterans Affairs on
- or after the date of enactment of this Act; and
- 21 (2) any claim for such benefits that was re-
- ceived by the Department of Veterans Affairs before
- 23 the date of enactment of this Act but is not finally
- 24 adjudicated by the Department as of that date.

1	SEC. 202. MANAGEMENT OF BOARD OF VETERANS' AP-
2	PEALS DOCKET.
3	(a) In General.—Section 7107(a)(1) is amended by
4	inserting before the period at the end the following: ", but
5	the Board may consider and decide a particular case be-
6	fore another case with an earlier docket number if the ear-
7	lier case has been stayed, or if a decision on the earlier
8	case has been delayed for any reason and the later case
9	is fully developed and ready for decision".
10	(b) Effective Date.—The amendment made by
11	subsection (a) of this section shall apply to—
12	(1) any claim for benefits under a law adminis-
13	tered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that is re-
14	ceived by the Department of Veterans Affairs on or
15	after the date of enactment of this Act; and
16	(2) any claim for such benefits that was re-
17	ceived by the Department of Veterans Affairs before
18	the date of enactment of this Act but is not finally
19	adjudicated by the Department as of that date.
20	SEC. 203. AUTHORIZATION OF MEMORIAL HEADSTONES
21	AND MARKERS FOR DECEASED REMARRIED
22	SURVIVING SPOUSES OF VETERANS.
23	(a) In General.—Section 2306(b)(4)(B) is amend-
24	ed by striking "an unremarried surviving spouse whose
25	subsequent remarriage was terminated by death or di-

- 1 vorce" and inserting "a surviving spouse who had a subse-
- 2 quent remarriage".
- 3 (b) Effective Date.—The amendments made by
- 4 this section shall apply to deaths occurring on or after the
- 5 date of the enactment of this Act.
- 6 SEC. 204. PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR VA TO FUND CON-
- 7 TRACT MEDICAL DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS.
- 8 (a) Repeal of Expiration of Authority To
- 9 Fund Contract Medical Examinations Using Ap-
- 10 PROPRIATED FUNDS.—Section 704 of the Veterans Bene-
- 11 fits Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–183; 117 Stat. 2651;
- 12 38 U.S.C. 5101 note), is amended—
- 13 (1) by striking subsection (c);
- 14 (2) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
- section (c); and
- 16 (3) by striking "**TEMPORARY**" from the head-
- ing of section 704.
- 18 SEC. 205. MODIFICATION OF SERVICEMEMBERS' GROUP
- 19 LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE.
- 20 (a) Expansion of Servicemembers' Group Life
- 21 Insurance To Include Certain Members of Indi-
- 22 VIDUAL READY RESERVE.—
- 23 (1) In General.—Subparagraph (C) of section
- 24 1967(a)(1) is amended by striking "section

- 1 1965(5)(B) of this title" and inserting "subpara-
- 2 graph (B) or (C) of section 1965(5) of this title".
- 3 (2) Conforming amendments.—
- 4 (A) Subparagraph (C) of section
- 5 1967(a)(5) is amended by striking "section
- 6 1965(5)(B) of this title" and inserting "sub-
- 7 paragraph (B) or (C) of section 1965(5) of this
- 8 title"; and
- 9 (B) Subparagraph (B) of section
- 10 1969(g)(1) is amended by striking "section"
- 11 1965(5)(B) of this title" and inserting "sub-
- paragraph (B) or (C) of section 1965(5) of this
- title".
- 14 (b) Reduction in Period of Dependents' Cov-
- 15 Erage After Member Separates.—Section
- 16 1968(a)(5)(B)(ii) is amended by striking "120 days
- 17 after".
- 18 (c) Authority To Set Premiums for Ready Re-
- 19 SERVISTS' SPOUSES.—Section 1969(g)(1)(B) is amended
- 20 by striking "(which shall be the same for all such mem-
- 21 bers)".
- 22 (d) Forfeiture of Veterans' Group Life Insur-
- 23 ANCE.—Section 1973 is amended by striking "under this
- 24 subchapter" and inserting "and Veterans' Group Life In-
- 25 surance under this subchapter".

- 1 (e) Effective and Applicability Dates.—
- 2 (1) The amendments made by subsection (a) of 3 this section shall take effect on the date of enact-4 ment of this Act.
 - (2) The amendment made by subsection (b) of this section shall apply with respect to Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage for an insurable dependent of a member, as defined in section 1965(10) of title 38, United States Code, that begins on or after the date of enactment of this Act.
 - (3) The amendment made by subsection (c) of this section shall take effect as if enacted on June 5, 2001, immediately after the enactment of the Veterans' Survivor Benefits Improvements Act of 2001 (Public Law 107–14; 115 Stat. 25).
 - (4) The amendment made by subsection (d) of this section shall apply with respect to any act of mutiny, treason, spying, or desertion committed on or after the date of enactment of this Act for which a person is found guilty, or with respect to refusal because of conscientious objections to perform service in, or to wear the uniform of, the United States Armed Forces on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

1	SEC. 206. PERMIT VA TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY RESIDENCE
2	ASSISTANCE GRANTS TO CERTAIN ACTIVE
3	DUTY SERVICEMEMBERS.
4	Section 2101(c) is amended to read as follows:
5	"(c) The Secretary may provide assistance under this
6	chapter to a member of the Armed Forces serving on ac-
7	tive duty who is suffering from a disability described in
8	this section if such disability is the result of an injury in-
9	curred or disease contracted in or aggravated in line of
10	duty in the active military, naval, or air service. Such as-
11	sistance shall be provided to the same extent, and subject
12	to the same limitations, as assistance is provided to vet-
13	erans under this chapter.".
14	SEC. 207. DESIGNATION OF VA OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS
15	PROGRAMS.
16	The Office of Small Business Programs of the De-
1.7	
17	partment of Veterans Affairs is the office that is estab-
	partment of Veterans Affairs is the office that is established within the Office of the Secretary of Veterans Af-
18 19	lished within the Office of the Secretary of Veterans Af-
18 19	lished within the Office of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 15(k) of the Small Business Act (15
18 19 20	lished within the Office of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 15(k) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(k)). The Director of Small Business Programs
18 19 20 21	lished within the Office of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 15(k) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(k)). The Director of Small Business Programs is the head of such office.
18 19 20 21 22	lished within the Office of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 15(k) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(k)). The Director of Small Business Programs is the head of such office. TITLE III—HEALTH CARE
18 19 20 21 22 23	lished within the Office of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 15(k) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(k)). The Director of Small Business Programs is the head of such office. TITLE III—HEALTH CARE MATTERS

1 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) and 2 (F) as (F) and (G), respectively; and 3 (2) by adding the following new subparagraph (E): 4 "(E) Noninstitutional extended care serv-5 6 ices, including alternatives to institutional ex-7 tended care which the Secretary may furnish (i) 8 directly, (ii) by contract, or (iii) (through provi-9 sion of case management) by another provider 10 or payor.". SEC. 302. EXTENSIONS OF CERTAIN AUTHORITIES. 12 (a) Nursing Home Care.—Subsection (c) of section 1710A is amended by striking "December 31, 2008" and 13 inserting "December 31, 2013". 14 15 (b) Research Corporations.—Section 7368 is amended by striking "December 31, 2008" and inserting 16 "December 31, 2013". 17 18 (c) Recovery Audits.—Section 1703(d) is amended in paragraph (4) by striking "September 30, 2008" and 19

20 inserting "September 30, 2013".

1	SEC. 303. PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR VETERANS WHO
2	PARTICIPATED IN CERTAIN CHEMICAL AND
3	BIOLOGICAL TESTING CONDUCTED BY THE
4	DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.
5	Subsection (e) of section 1710 is amended by striking
6	paragraph (3)(D).
7	SEC. 304. REPEAL OF CERTAIN ANNUAL REPORTING RE-
8	QUIREMENTS.
9	(a) Nurse Pay Report.—Section 7451 is amended
10	by—
11	(1) striking subsection (f); and
12	(2) redesignating subsection (g) as subsection
13	(f).
14	(b) Long-Term Planning Report.—Section 8107
15	is repealed.
16	SEC. 305. AMENDMENTS TO ANNUAL GULF WAR RESEARCH
17	REPORT.
18	Section 707 of the Persian Gulf War Veterans'
19	Health Status Act (title VII of Public Law 102–585; 106
20	Stat. 4943; 38 U.S.C. 527 note) is amended in subsection
21	(c)(1), by striking "Not later than March 1 of each year"
22	and inserting "Not later than July 1, 2008, and July 1
23	of each of the five following years".

1	SEC. 306. PAYMENT FOR CARE FURNISHED TO CHAMPVA
2	BENEFICIARIES.
3	Section 1781 is amended at the end by adding the
4	following new subsection:
5	"(e) Payment by the Secretary under this section on
6	behalf of a covered beneficiary for medical care shall con-
7	stitute payment in full and extinguish any liability on the
8	part of the beneficiary for that care.".
9	SEC. 307. PAYOR PROVISIONS FOR CARE FURNISHED TO
10	CERTAIN CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS.
11	(a) Children of Vietnam Veterans Born With
12	SPINA BIFIDA.—Section 1803 is amended—
13	(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as (d); and
14	(2) by inserting new subsection (c) as follows:
15	"(c) Where payment by the Secretary under this sec-
16	tion is less than the amount of the charges billed, the
17	health care provider or agent of the health care provider
18	may seek payment for the difference between the amount
19	billed and the amount paid by the Secretary from a re-
20	sponsible third party to the extent that the provider or
21	agent thereof would be eligible to receive payment for such
22	care or services from such third party, but—
23	"(1) the health care provider or agent for the
24	health care provider may not impose any additional
25	charge on the beneficiary who received the medical
26	care, or the family of such beneficiary, for any serv-

- ice or item for which the Secretary has made pay-
- 2 ment under this section;
- 3 "(2) the total amount of payment a provider or 4 agent of the provider may receive for care and serv-
- 5 ices furnished under this section may not exceed the
- 6 amount billed to the Secretary; and
- 7 "(3) the Secretary, upon request, shall disclose
- 8 to such third party information received for the pur-
- 9 poses of carrying out this section.".
- 10 (b) Children of Women Vietnam Veterans
- 11 Born With Birth Defects.—Section 1813 is amend-
- 12 ed—
- 13 (1) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
- section (d); and
- 15 (2) by inserting new subsection (c) as follows:
- 16 "(c) Where payment by the Secretary under this sec-
- 17 tion is less than the amount of the charges billed, the
- 18 health care provider or agent of the health care provider
- 19 may seek payment for the difference between the amount
- 20 billed and the amount paid by the Secretary from a re-
- 21 sponsible third party to the extent that the health care
- 22 provider or agent thereof would be eligible to receive pay-
- 23 ment for such care or services from such third party,
- 24 but—

1	"(1) the health care provider or agent for the
2	health care provider may not impose any additional
3	charge on the beneficiary who received medical care,
4	or the family of such beneficiary, for any service or
5	item for which the Secretary has made payment
6	under this section;
7	"(2) the total amount of payment a provider or
8	agent of the provider may receive for care and serv-
9	ices furnished under this section may not exceed the
10	amount billed to the Secretary; and
11	"(3) the Secretary, upon request, shall disclose
12	to such third party information received for the pur-
13	poses of carrying out this section.".
	poses of carrying out this section.". SEC. 308. DISCLOSURES FROM CERTAIN MEDICAL
13	
13 14	SEC. 308. DISCLOSURES FROM CERTAIN MEDICAL
13 14 15	SEC. 308. DISCLOSURES FROM CERTAIN MEDICAL RECORDS.
13 14 15 16	SEC. 308. DISCLOSURES FROM CERTAIN MEDICAL RECORDS. Section 7332(b)(2) of such title is amended by adding
13 14 15 16	SEC. 308. DISCLOSURES FROM CERTAIN MEDICAL RECORDS. Section 7332(b)(2) of such title is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subparagraph:
13 14 15 16 17	SEC. 308. DISCLOSURES FROM CERTAIN MEDICAL RECORDS. Section 7332(b)(2) of such title is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subparagraph: "(F)(i) To a representative of a patient
13 14 15 16 17 18	SEC. 308. DISCLOSURES FROM CERTAIN MEDICAL RECORDS. Section 7332(b)(2) of such title is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subparagraph: "(F)(i) To a representative of a patient who lacks decision-making capacity, when a
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	SEC. 308. DISCLOSURES FROM CERTAIN MEDICAL RECORDS. Section 7332(b)(2) of such title is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subparagraph: "(F)(i) To a representative of a patient who lacks decision-making capacity, when a practitioner deems the content of the given
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	SEC. 308. DISCLOSURES FROM CERTAIN MEDICAL RECORDS. Section 7332(b)(2) of such title is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subparagraph: "(F)(i) To a representative of a patient who lacks decision-making capacity, when a practitioner deems the content of the given record necessary for that representative to
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	SEC. 308. DISCLOSURES FROM CERTAIN MEDICAL RECORDS. Section 7332(b)(2) of such title is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subparagraph: "(F)(i) To a representative of a patient who lacks decision-making capacity, when a practitioner deems the content of the given record necessary for that representative to make an informed decision regarding the pa-

1	or other body authorized under section 7331 of
2	this title and its implementing regulations to
3	give informed consent on behalf of a patient
4	who lacks decision-making capacity.".
5	SEC. 309. PROVISION OF HEALTH-PLAN CONTRACT INFOR-
6	MATION AND SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER.
7	Subchapter I of chapter 17 of title 38, United States
8	Code, is amended—
9	(1) by adding at the end the following new sec-
10	tion:
11	"§ 1709. Provision of health-plan contract informa-
12	tion and Social Security number
12 13	tion and Social Security number "(a) Any individual who applies for or is in receipt
	·
13 14	"(a) Any individual who applies for or is in receipt
13 14	"(a) Any individual who applies for or is in receipt of any hospital, nursing home, or domiciliary care; med-
13 14 15 16	"(a) Any individual who applies for or is in receipt of any hospital, nursing home, or domiciliary care; med- ical, rehabilitative, or preventive health services; or other
13 14 15 16	"(a) Any individual who applies for or is in receipt of any hospital, nursing home, or domiciliary care; med- ical, rehabilitative, or preventive health services; or other medical care under laws administered by the Secretary
13 14 15 16	"(a) Any individual who applies for or is in receipt of any hospital, nursing home, or domiciliary care; med- ical, rehabilitative, or preventive health services; or other medical care under laws administered by the Secretary shall, at the time of such application, or otherwise when
13 14 15 16 17	"(a) Any individual who applies for or is in receipt of any hospital, nursing home, or domiciliary care; med- ical, rehabilitative, or preventive health services; or other medical care under laws administered by the Secretary shall, at the time of such application, or otherwise when requested by the Secretary, furnish the Secretary with
13 14 15 16 17 18	"(a) Any individual who applies for or is in receipt of any hospital, nursing home, or domiciliary care; medical, rehabilitative, or preventive health services; or other medical care under laws administered by the Secretary shall, at the time of such application, or otherwise when requested by the Secretary, furnish the Secretary with such current information as the Secretary may require to
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	"(a) Any individual who applies for or is in receipt of any hospital, nursing home, or domiciliary care; medical, rehabilitative, or preventive health services; or other medical care under laws administered by the Secretary shall, at the time of such application, or otherwise when requested by the Secretary, furnish the Secretary with such current information as the Secretary may require to identify any health-plan contract, as defined in section
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	"(a) Any individual who applies for or is in receipt of any hospital, nursing home, or domiciliary care; medical, rehabilitative, or preventive health services; or other medical care under laws administered by the Secretary shall, at the time of such application, or otherwise when requested by the Secretary, furnish the Secretary with such current information as the Secretary may require to identify any health-plan contract, as defined in section 1729(i)(1) of this title, under which such individual is cov-

- 1 under the spouse's health-plan contract; the plan number,
- 2 and the plan's group code.
- 3 "(b) Any individual who applies for or is in receipt
- 4 of any hospital, nursing home, or domiciliary care; med-
- 5 ical, rehabilitative, or preventive health services; or other
- 6 medical care and services under laws administered by the
- 7 Secretary shall, at the time of such application, or other-
- 8 wise when requested by the Secretary, furnish the Sec-
- 9 retary with the individual's Social Security number and
- 10 the Social Security number of any dependent or Depart-
- 11 ment of Veterans Affairs' beneficiary on whose behalf, or
- 12 based upon whom, such individual applies for or is in re-
- 13 ceipt of such benefit. This subsection does not require an
- 14 individual to furnish the Secretary with a Social Security
- 15 number for any individual to whom a Social Security num-
- 16 ber has not been assigned.
- 17 "(c) The Secretary shall deny the individual's appli-
- 18 cation for, or may terminate the individual's enrollment
- 19 in, the system of patient enrollment established by the
- 20 Secretary under section 1705 of this title, if the individual
- 21 does not provide the Social Security number required or
- 22 requested to be furnished pursuant to subsection (b) of
- 23 this section. The Secretary, following such denial or termi-
- 24 nation, may, upon receipt of the information required or
- 25 requested under subsection (b), approve the individual's

1	application or reinstate the individual's enrollment (if oth-
2	erwise in order), for such medical care and services pro-
3	vided on and after the date of such receipt of information.
4	"(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed as au-
5	thority to deny medical care and treatment to an indi-
6	vidual in a medical emergency."; and
7	(2) by amending the table of sections for such
8	subchapter by adding at the end thereof the fol-
9	lowing new item: "§ 1709. Provision of health-plan
10	contract information and Social Security number.".
11	TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS
12	PROVISIONS
13	SEC. 401. EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY FOR DEPARTMENT OF
1314	SEC. 401. EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICE OFFICERS.
14	VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICE OFFICERS.
14 15	VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICE OFFICERS. Section 902 is amended—
141516	VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICE OFFICERS. Section 902 is amended— (1) in subsection (a)—
14151617	VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICE OFFICERS. Section 902 is amended— (1) in subsection (a)— (A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as
14 15 16 17 18	VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICE OFFICERS. Section 902 is amended— (1) in subsection (a)— (A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:
14 15 16 17 18 19	VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICE OFFICERS. Section 902 is amended— (1) in subsection (a)— (A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows: "(1) Employees of the Department who are De-
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICE OFFICERS. Section 902 is amended— (1) in subsection (a)— (A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows: "(1) Employees of the Department who are Department police officers shall, with respect to acts
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICE OFFICERS. Section 902 is amended— (1) in subsection (a)— (A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows: "(1) Employees of the Department who are Department police officers shall, with respect to acts occurring on Department property—

1	"(C) enforce traffic and motor vehicle laws
2	of a State or local government within the juris-
3	diction of which such Department property is
4	located as authorized by an express grant of au-
5	thority under applicable State or local law. Any
6	such enforcement shall be by issuance of a cita-
7	tion for violation of such law;
8	"(D) carry the appropriate VA-issued
9	weapons, including firearms, while off Depart-
10	ment property in an official capacity or while in
11	an official travel status;
12	"(E) conduct investigations, on and off
13	Department property, of offenses that may have
14	been committed on property under the original
15	jurisdiction of VA, consistent with agreements
16	or other consultation with affected local, State
17	or Federal law enforcement agencies; and
18	"(F) carry out, as needed and appropriate
19	the duties described in subparagraphs (A)–(E)
20	of this subsection when engaged in duties au-
21	thorized by other Federal statutes."; and
22	(B) by striking paragraph (2) and renum-
23	bering paragraph (3) as paragraph (2) and

adding ", and on any arrest warrant issued by

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1	competent judicial authority" before the period;
2	and
3	(2) by amending subsection (c) to read:
4	"(c) The powers granted to Department police offi-
5	cers designated under this section shall be exercised in ac-
6	cordance with guidelines approved by the Secretary and
7	the Attorney General.".
8	SEC. 402. UNIFORM ALLOWANCE FOR DEPARTMENT OF
9	VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICE OFFICERS.
10	Section 903 is amended—
11	(1) by striking the matter in subsection (b) and
12	inserting:
13	"(b) The amount of the allowance that the Secretary
14	may pay under this section will be the lesser of—
15	"(1) the amount currently allowed as prescribed
16	by the Office of Personnel Management; or
17	"(2) estimated costs or actual costs as deter-
18	mined by periodic surveys conducted by the Depart-
19	ment.
20	During any fiscal year no officer will receive more than
21	the amount established under this subsection."; and
22	(2) by striking the matter in subsection (c) and
23	inserting:
24	"(c) The allowance established under subsection (b)
25	shall be paid at the beginning of a Department police offi-

- 1 cer's employment for those appointed on or after October
- 2 1, 2008. In the case of any other Department police offi-
- 3 cer, an allowance in the amount established under sub-
- 4 section (b) shall be paid upon the request of the officer.".
- 5 SEC. 403. INCREASE IN THRESHOLD FOR MAJOR MEDICAL
- 6 FACILITY LEASES REQUIRING CONGRES-
- 7 SIONAL APPROVAL.
- 8 Section 8104(a)(3)(B) is amended by striking
- 9 "\$600,000" and inserting "\$1,000,000".

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