

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3527

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize advance appropriations for certain medical care accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs by providing two-fiscal year budget authority, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 18 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 17), 2008

Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. FEINGOLD, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. THUNE, Mr. STEVENS, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER) 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 authorize advance appropriations for certain medical care accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs by providing two-fiscal year budget authority, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Health Care
5 Budget Reform Act of 2008”.

1 **SEC. 2. TWO-FISCAL YEAR BUDGET AUTHORITY FOR CER-**
 2 **TAIN MEDICAL CARE ACCOUNTS OF THE DE-**
 3 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) TWO-FISCAL YEAR BUDGET AUTHORITY.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 38, United
 6 States Code, is amended by inserting after section
 7 113 the following new section:

8 **“§ 113A. Two-fiscal year budget authority for certain**
 9 **medical care accounts**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with fiscal year 2010,
 11 new discretionary budget authority provided in an appro-
 12 priations Act for the appropriations accounts of the De-
 13 partment specified in subsection (b) shall be made avail-
 14 able for the fiscal year involved and shall include new dis-
 15 cretionary budget authority first available after the end
 16 of such fiscal year for the subsequent fiscal year.

17 “(b) MEDICAL CARE ACCOUNTS.—The medical care
 18 accounts of the Department specified in this subsection
 19 are the medical care accounts of the Veterans Health Ad-
 20 ministration as follows:

21 “(1) Medical Services.

22 “(2) Medical Administration.

23 “(3) Medical Facilities.”.

24 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 25 tions at the beginning of chapter 1 of such title is

1 amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-
 2 tion 113 the following new item:

“113A. Two-fiscal year budget authority for certain medical care accounts.”.

3 **SEC. 3. COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES**
 4 **STUDY ON ADEQUACY AND ACCURACY OF**
 5 **BASELINE MODEL PROJECTIONS OF THE DE-**
 6 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR**
 7 **HEALTH CARE EXPENDITURES.**

8 (a) STUDY OF ADEQUACY AND ACCURACY OF BASE-
 9 LINE MODEL PROJECTIONS.—The Comptroller General of
 10 the United States shall conduct a study of the adequacy
 11 and accuracy of the budget projections made by the En-
 12 rollee Health Care Projection Model, or its equivalent, as
 13 utilized for the purpose of estimating and projecting
 14 health care expenditures of the Department of Veterans
 15 Affairs (in this section referred to as the “Model”) with
 16 respect to the fiscal year involved and the subsequent four
 17 fiscal years.

18 (b) REPORTS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the date of
 20 each year in 2010, 2011, and 2012, on which the
 21 President submits the budget request for the next
 22 fiscal year under section 1105 of title 31, United
 23 States Code, the Comptroller General shall submit to
 24 the appropriate committees of Congress and to the
 25 Secretary a report.

1 (2) ELEMENTS.—Each report under this para-
2 graph shall include, for the fiscal year beginning in
3 the year in which such report is submitted, the fol-
4 lowing:

5 (A) A statement whether the amount re-
6 quested in the budget of the President for ex-
7 penditures of the Department for health care in
8 such fiscal year is consistent with anticipated
9 expenditures of the Department for health care
10 in such fiscal year as determined utilizing the
11 Model.

12 (B) The basis for such statement.

13 (C) Such additional information as the
14 Comptroller General determines appropriate.

15 (3) AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.—Each re-
16 port submitted under this subsection shall also be
17 made available to the public.

18 (4) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS
19 DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appro-
20 priate committees of Congress” means—

21 (A) the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs,
22 Appropriations, and the Budget of the Senate;
23 and

1 (B) the Committees on Veterans' Affairs,
2 Appropriations, and the Budget of the House of
3 Representatives.

○