

4 billion kilowatt hours of hydroelectric power each year, for the next 50 years. I would want to reiterate our support for the enactment of this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support the passage of this bipartisan resolution. Hoover Dam is truly a marvel of engineering, of technology and human endeavor. And tomorrow this reenactment of its 75-year dedication will take place in Las Vegas.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1250

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, generations ago water and power visionaries came up with the idea of making the West bloom by harnessing our rivers. The Hoover Dam is a legendary example of that vision.

When completed in 1935, it was the tallest dam and the largest hydroelectric generator in the world. It literally helped create cities in the arid West and to this day, as my friend from California pointed out, still provides numerous benefits: emissions-free hydropower, drinking and irrigation water, and recreation and flood control.

This bipartisan resolution is a fitting honor to the Hoover Dam and to those who had the foresight to create one of the world's best-known engineering marvels.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, very, very swiftly and quickly, before I yield back the balance of my time, I thank my staff and the minority staff on this beautiful resolution that is going to commemorate some magnificent achievements by the United States to really promote what we now know as the Southwest.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1636.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### VIRGIN ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK LAND LEASE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 714) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain lands in Virgin Islands National Park, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendments is as follows:

Senate amendments:

On page 2, line 12 before the period insert: "as amended, assigned, and assumed".

On page 2, line 21 after "lease" insert: "with the owner of the retained use estate".

On page 3, line 19, strike "with" and insert: "without".

On page 4, line 5, strike "and" and insert: "(E) include provisions to ensure the protection of the natural, cultural, and historic features of the resort and associated property, consistent with the laws and policies applicable to property managed by the National Park Service; and".

On page 4, line 6, strike "(E)" and insert: "(F)".

On page 5, line 3, strike "effective date" and insert: "award".

On page 5, line 24, strike "that" and insert: "who".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 417, legislation that I introduced to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a lease with the owners of Caneel Bay Resort in my congressional district.

I have a longer statement which I will submit for the RECORD, but I want to begin by thanking Natural Resources Committee Chairman NICK RAHALL and Subcommittee Chairman RAÚL GRIJALVA for their strong and steadfast support of this bill. I also want to thank Ranking Member HASTINGS and Subcommittee Ranking Member BISHOP for their support as well.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 714 passed the House in February of 2009 and was approved by the other body, with an amendment, on May 14 of this year. We have been working to secure the enactment of this or a similar bill for more than 4 years, which will mean that the largest employer on the island of St. John in my district will be able to make badly needed upgrades to its facilities and keep operating and save jobs of over 400 employees during these challenging economic times.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Natural Resources Committee Chief of Staff Jim Zoia, Chief Counsel Rick Healy, and National Parks, Forest and Public Land Subcommittee Staff Director David Watkins for all their hard work and assistance on this bill. H.R. 714 is an example of an effective public-private partner-

ship, and I urge my colleagues to support its adoption.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 714 has been adequately explained by the gentlelady from the Virgin Islands, and we have no objections at all to this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 714.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, AND LIVING PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2010

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5360) to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the standard of visual acuity required for eligibility for specially adapted housing assistance provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5360

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Housing, Employment, and Living Programs for Veterans Act of 2010" or the "HELP Veterans Act of 2010".

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.
- Sec. 3. Modification of standard of visual acuity required for eligibility for specially adapted housing assistance provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 4. Authorities regarding housing loans guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 5. Reauthorization and improvement of Department of Veterans Affairs small business loan program.
- Sec. 6. Assistance for flight training.
- Sec. 7. Seven-year increase in amount of assistance for individuals pursuing apprenticeships or on-job training.
- Sec. 8. Extension of authority for certain qualifying work-study activities for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 9. Expansion of work-study allowance to include certain outreach services conducted through congressional offices.
- Sec. 10. Temporary reduction of required amount of wages for on-the-job training programs.

- Sec. 11. Reauthorization of Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education.
- Sec. 12. Homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children reintegration grant program.
- Sec. 13. Technology review and grant program.
- Sec. 14. Child care; President's Budget.
- Sec. 15. Increase in amount of reporting fee payable to educational institutions that enroll veterans receiving educational assistance.
- Sec. 16. Modification of advance payment of initial educational assistance or subsistence allowance.
- Sec. 17. Increase in amount of subsistence allowance payable to veterans participating in vocational rehabilitation program.
- Sec. 18. Expansion of availability of employment assistance allowance for veterans using employment services.
- Sec. 19. Promoting jobs for veterans teaching in rural areas.
- Sec. 20. Promoting jobs for veterans through the establishment of an internship program.
- Sec. 21. Veterans entrepreneurial development summit.
- Sec. 22. Increase in the maximum amount of specially adapted housing assistance authorized to be provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 23. Department of Veterans Affairs housing loans for construction of energy efficient dwellings.
- Sec. 24. Pilot program on specially adapted housing assistance for veterans residing temporarily in housing owned by a family member.
- Sec. 25. Compliance with Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

## SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or a repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of title 38, United States Code.

## SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF STANDARD OF VISUAL ACUITY REQUIRED FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2101(b)(2)(A) is amended by striking “with 5/200” and all that follows through the period and inserting the following: “with central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with the use of standard correcting lenses (for purposes of this subparagraph, an eye which is accompanied by a limitation in the fields of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees shall be treated as having a central visual acuity of 20/200 or less).”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to specially adapted housing assistance provided on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

## SEC. 4. AUTHORITIES REGARDING HOUSING LOANS GUARANTEED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) COVENANTS AND LIENS IN RESPONSE TO DISASTER-RELIEF ASSISTANCE.—Paragraph (3) of section 3703(d) is amended to read as follows:

“(3)(A) Any real estate housing loan (other than for repairs, alterations, or improvements) shall be secured by a first lien on the realty. In determining whether a loan is so secured, the Secretary may either disregard

or allow for subordination to a superior lien that—

“(i) is created by a duly recorded covenant running with the realty in favor of—

“(I) a public entity that provides assistance in response to a major disaster as determined by the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.); or

“(II) a private entity to secure an obligation to such entity for the homeowner's share of the costs of the management, operation, or maintenance of property, services, or programs within and for the benefit of the development or community in which the veteran's realty is located; and

“(ii) the Secretary determines will not prejudice the interests of the veteran borrower and of the Government by the operation of such a covenant.

“(B) In respect to a superior lien described by subparagraph (A) that is created after June 6, 1969, the Secretary's determination must have been made prior to the recordation of the covenant.”.

(b) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO POOL LOANS.—Paragraph (2) of section 3720(h) is amended by striking “2011” and inserting “2016”.

## SEC. 5. REAUTHORIZATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SMALL BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 37 is amended by striking section 3751.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by striking the item relating to section 3751.

(b) EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SMALL BUSINESS LOANS.—Chapter 37 is further amended—

(1) in section 3741, by striking paragraph (2); and

(2) in section 3742(a)(3)(A), by striking “veterans of the Vietnam era or”.

(c) REPEAL OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE DIRECT LOANS.—Chapter 37, as amended by subsections (a) and (b), is further amended—

(1) in section 3742—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking “(A) loan guaranties, or (B) direct loans” and inserting “loan guaranties”; and

(ii) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “and that at least 51 percent of a business concern must be owned by disabled veterans in order for such concern to qualify for a direct loan”;

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) by striking paragraph (1) and redesignating paragraphs (2) through (4) as paragraphs (1) through (3), respectively; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated, by striking “make or”;

(C) in subsection (c), by striking “made or”;

(D) in subsection (d)—

(i) by striking paragraph (2);

(ii) by striking “(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the” and inserting “The”; and

(iii) by striking “make or”; and

(E) in subsection (e)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in the first sentence, by striking “or, if the loan was a direct loan made by the Secretary, may suspend such obligation”; and

(II) in the second sentence, by striking “or while such obligation is suspended”;

(ii) by striking “or suspend” each place it appears;

(iii) by striking “or suspension” each place it appears

(iv) by striking “or suspends” each place it appears; and

(v) in paragraph (4), by striking “or suspended” each place it appears;

(2) in section 3743—

(A) by striking “that is provided a direct loan under this subchapter, or”;

(B) by striking the comma between “subchapter” and “shall”;

(C) by striking “direct or”; and

(D) by striking “for the amount of such direct loan or, in the case of a guaranteed loan,”;

(3) in section 3745—

(A) by striking “(a)”; and

(B) by striking subsection (b);

(4) in section 3746, by striking “made or” both places it appears; and

(5) in section 3750, by striking “made or”.

(d) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT.—Section 3742, as amended by subsection (c), is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) The Secretary shall enter into a contract with an appropriate entity for the purpose of carrying out the program under this subchapter.”.

(e) FUNDING.—Section 3742(b), as amended by subsection (c), is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) The Secretary may only guarantee a loan under this subchapter to the extent that a limitation commitment to guarantee loans for a fiscal year has been provided in advance in an appropriations Act.”.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3749 is amended to read as follows:

### “§ 3749. Authorization of appropriations

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subchapter such sums as may be necessary.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 37 is amended by striking the item relating to section 3749 and inserting the following new item:

“3749. Authorization of appropriations.”.

(g) LOAN FEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 37 is further amended by inserting after section 3749 the following new section:

### “§ 3749A. Loan Fee

“(a) REQUIREMENT OF FEE.—(1) The Secretary shall collect a fee from each veterans' small business concern obtaining a loan guaranteed under this subchapter.

“(2) No loan may be guaranteed under this subchapter until the fee payable under this section has been remitted to the Secretary.

“(3) The fee may be included in the loan guaranteed under this subchapter and paid from the proceeds thereof.

“(b) DETERMINATION OF FEE.—The amount of the fee shall be the full cost of the loan guarantee plus an additional amount determined by the Secretary as sufficient to cover applicable administrative expenses.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3749 the following new item:

“3749A. Loan fee.”.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3741 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(2) The term ‘cost’ has the meaning given the term ‘cost of a loan guarantee’ within the meaning of section 502(5)(C) of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661a(5)(C)).

“(3) The term ‘guarantee’—

“(A) has the meaning given the term ‘loan guarantee’ in section 502 of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661a); and

“(B) includes a loan guarantee commitment (as defined in section 502 of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661a)).

“(4) The term ‘obligation’ means the loan or other debt obligation that is guaranteed under this subchapter.”.

**SEC. 6. ASSISTANCE FOR FLIGHT TRAINING.**

Subsection (e)(1) of section 3032 is amended by striking “60 percent” and inserting “75 percent”.

**SEC. 7. SEVEN-YEAR INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS PURSUING APPRENTICESHIPS OR ON-JOB TRAINING.**

During the seven-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall apply—

(1) section 3032(c)(1) of title 38, United States Code—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by substituting “80 percent” for “75 percent”;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by substituting “60 percent” for “55 percent”; and

(C) in subparagraph (C), by substituting “40 percent” for “35 percent”;

(2) section 3233(a) of such title—

(A) in paragraph (1), by substituting “80 percent” for “75 percent”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by substituting “60 percent” for “55 percent”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by substituting “40 percent” for “35 percent”;

(3) section 3687(b)(2) of such title—

(A) by substituting “\$603” for “\$574”;

(B) by substituting “\$450” for “\$429”; and

(C) by substituting “\$299” for “\$285”; and

(4) section 16131(d)(1) of title 10, United States Code—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by substituting “80 percent” for “75 percent”;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by substituting “60 percent” for “55 percent”; and

(C) in subparagraph (C), by substituting “40 percent” for “35 percent”.

**SEC. 8. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN QUALIFYING WORK-STUDY ACTIVITIES FOR PURPOSES OF THE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

Paragraph (4) of section 3485(a) is amended by striking “June 30, 2010” each place it appears and inserting “June 30, 2020”.

**SEC. 9. EXPANSION OF WORK-STUDY ALLOWANCE TO INCLUDE CERTAIN OUTREACH SERVICES CONDUCTED THROUGH CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES.**

Section 3485(a)(4) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(G) The following activities carried out at the offices of Members of Congress for such Members:

“(i) The distribution of information to members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their dependents about the benefits and services under laws administered by the Secretary and other appropriate governmental and non-governmental programs.

“(ii) The provision of assistance in ascertaining the status of claims (including appeals) for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, as well as other constituent services for veterans as the Secretary determines appropriate.”.

**SEC. 10. TEMPORARY REDUCTION OF REQUIRED AMOUNT OF WAGES FOR ON-THE-JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) REDUCING REQUIREMENT.—Section 3677(b)(1)(A)(ii) is amended by striking “85 per centum” and inserting “60 percent”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on October 1, 2010, and shall apply to a veteran who enrolls in a program of training on the job approved under section 3677 of title 38, United States Code, on or after such date.

(b) SUNSET.—

(1) REVERSION.—Effective October 1, 2013, section 3677(b)(1)(A)(ii) of such title, as amended by subsection (a) of this section, is amended by striking “60 percent” and inserting “85 percent”.

(2) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply to a veteran who

enrolls in a program of training on the job approved under section 3677 of title 38, United States Code, on or after October 1, 2013.

(c) GAO REPORT.—Not later than October 1, 2013, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate a report on the effects of eliminating the requirement under section 3677(b)(1)(A)(ii) of title 38, United States Code, for a private employer to provide wage increases to veterans enrolled in a program of training on the job approved under section 3677 of such title.

**SEC. 11. REAUTHORIZATION OF VETERANS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.**

Section 3692(c) is amended by striking “December 31, 2009” and inserting “December 31, 2020”.

**SEC. 12. HOMELESS WOMEN VETERANS AND HOMELESS VETERANS WITH CHILDREN REINTEGRATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

(a) GRANT PROGRAM.—Chapter 20 is amended by inserting after section 2021 the following new section:

**“§ 2021A. Homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children reintegration grant program**

“(a) GRANTS.—Subject to the availability of appropriations provided for such purpose, the Secretary of Labor shall make grants to programs and facilities that the Secretary determines provide dedicated services for homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children.

“(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants under this section shall be used to provide job training, counseling, placement services (including job readiness and literacy and skills training) and child care services to expedite the reintegration of homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children into the labor force.

“(c) REQUIREMENT TO MONITOR EXPENDITURES OF FUNDS.—(1) The Secretary of Labor shall collect such information as that Secretary considers appropriate to monitor and evaluate the distribution and expenditure of funds appropriated to carry out this section. The information shall include data with respect to the results or outcomes of the services provided to each homeless veteran under this section.

“(2) Information under paragraph (1) shall be furnished in such form and manner as the Secretary of Labor may specify.

“(d) ADMINISTRATION THROUGH THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.—The Secretary of Labor shall carry out this section through the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

“(e) BIENNIAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary of Labor shall include as part of the report required under section 2021(d) of this title an evaluation of the grant program under this section, which shall include an evaluation of services furnished to veterans under this section and an analysis of the information collected under subsection (c).

“(f) APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—(1) In addition to any amount authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 2021 of this title, there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2011 through 2016.

“(2) Funds appropriated to carry out this section shall remain available until expended. Funds obligated in any fiscal year to carry out this section may be expended in that fiscal year and the succeeding fiscal year.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2021 the following new item:

“2021A. Homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children reintegration grant program.”.

**SEC. 13. TECHNOLOGY REVIEW AND GRANT PROGRAM.**

(a) REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF NEW TECHNOLOGY.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a team of individuals from appropriate disciplines to be responsible for reviewing new technologies, processes, and products and for determining which such technologies, processes, and products may be beneficial to the Department of Veterans Affairs or to the veterans served by the Department. Upon completion of the review under this subsection, the team shall submit the review to the Secretary, who shall disseminate the review within the Department, as appropriate.

(b) SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 21 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“§ 2108. Specially adapted housing assistive technology grant program**

“(a) AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS.—The Secretary shall make grants to encourage the development of new assistive technologies for specially adapted housing.

“(b) APPLICATION.—A person or entity seeking a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an application for the grant in such form and manner as the Secretary shall specify.

“(c) GRANT FUNDS.—Each grant awarded under this section shall be in an amount of not more than \$250,000 per year.

“(d) USE OF FUNDS.—The recipient of a grant under this section shall use the grant to develop assistive technologies for use in specially adapted housing.

“(e) REPORT.—Not later than March 1 of each year following a year in which the Secretary makes a grant, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report containing information related to each grant awarded under this section during the preceding calendar year, including—

“(1) the name of the grant recipient;

“(2) the amount of the grant; and

“(3) the goal of the grant.

“(f) FUNDING.—From amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Department for each fiscal year for which the Secretary is authorized to make a grant under this section, \$1,500,000 shall be available for that fiscal year for the purposes of the program under this section.

“(g) TERMINATION.—The authority to make a grant under this section shall terminate on the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this section.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“2108. Specially adapted housing assistive technology grant program.”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall begin making grants under section 2108 of title 38, United States Code, as added by paragraph (1), by not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 14. CHILD CARE; PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 31 is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

**“§ 3123. Child care assistance for single parents**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary to carry out this section, the Secretary shall provide reimbursements for the actual cost of child care provided by a licensed provider to a veteran who—

“(1) is participating in a vocational rehabilitation program under this chapter;

“(2) is the sole caretaker of a child; and  
“(3) would not otherwise be able to afford such child care.

“(b) AMOUNT AND DURATION.—The amount of the reimbursement for the actual cost for child care under this section shall be not more than \$2,000 per month for each month the veteran is participating in a vocational rehabilitation program under this chapter.

“§ 3124. Information included in support of President’s budget

“The Secretary shall include in documents submitted to Congress by the Secretary in support of the President’s budget for each fiscal year submitted under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the following:

“(1) For the calendar year preceding the submission—

“(A) the percentage of veterans receiving assistance under this chapter who became employed; and

“(B) the percentage of veterans receiving assistance under this chapter who achieved independence in daily living.

“(2) Any changes made by the Secretary in measuring or calculating the performance of the department under this chapter.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

“3123. Child care assistance for single parents.

“3124. Information included in support of President’s budget.”.

SEC. 15. INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF REPORTING FEE PAYABLE TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ENROLL VETERANS RECEIVING EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF FEE.—Subsection (c) of section 3684 is amended—

(1) by striking “\$7” and inserting “\$16”; and

(2) by striking “\$11” and inserting “\$16”.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Subsection (a) of such section is amended by striking the second comma after “34”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on January 1, 2011.

SEC. 16. MODIFICATION OF ADVANCE PAYMENT OF INITIAL EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE OR SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE.

(a) MODIFICATION.—Section 3680(d)(2) is amended by inserting after the third sentence the following new sentence: “For purposes of the entitlement to educational assistance of the veteran or person receiving an advance payment under this subsection, the advance payment shall be charged against the final month of the entitlement of the person or veteran and, if necessary, the penultimate such month. In no event may any veteran or person receive more than one advance payment under this subsection during any academic year.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to an advance payment of educational assistance made on or after January 1, 2011.

SEC. 17. INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE PAYABLE TO VETERANS PARTICIPATING IN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM.

(a) INCREASE IN SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE.—Section 3108(b)(1) is amended by striking the table and inserting the following new table:

“Column I	Column II	Column III	Column IV	Column V
Type of program	No dependents	One dependent	Two dependents	More than two dependents
.....	.....	.....	.....	The amount in column IV, plus the following for each dependent in excess of two:
Full-time .....	\$585.87	\$726.72	\$856.39	\$62.42
Three-quarter time .....	\$440.21	\$545.83	\$640.27	\$48.00
Half-time .....	\$294.55	\$364.94	\$428.98	\$32.03”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to a payment made for the third month beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act and each subsequent month.

SEC. 18. EXPANSION OF AVAILABILITY OF EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE FOR VETERANS USING EMPLOYMENT SERVICES.

Paragraph (2) of section 3108(a) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) In the case of a veteran with a service-connected disability who the Secretary determines has reached a point of employability and who is participating only in a program of employment services provided under section 3104(a)(5) of this title, the Secretary shall pay the veteran a subsistence allowance as prescribed in this section for three months while the veteran is satisfactorily pursuing such program.”.

SEC. 19. PROMOTING JOBS FOR VETERANS TEACHING IN RURAL AREAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part III is amended by adding at the end the following new chapter:

“CHAPTER 44—VETERAN TEACHERS

“Sec.  
“4401. Assistance allowance for rural veteran teachers.

“§ 4401. Assistance allowance for rural veteran teachers

“(a) REDUCING ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN.—The Secretary may pay to a rural veteran teacher a monthly assistance allowance of \$500.

“(b) DURATION.—The aggregate period for which the Secretary may pay a rural veteran teacher a monthly assistance allowance under subsection (a) may not exceed 24 months.

“(c) RURAL VETERAN TEACHER DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘rural veteran teacher’ means a veteran who—

“(1) is discharged from service in the Armed Forces under honorable conditions;

“(2) has not been employed as a teacher prior to receiving assistance under this section;

“(3) is employed to teach full-time at an accredited elementary or secondary school that is located in a rural area (as determined by the Bureau of the Census); and

“(4) on the date on which the veteran applies for a monthly assistance allowance under subsection (a), is enrolled in a State-approved course leading to certification as a teacher.

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2012 and each fiscal year thereafter.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The tables of chapters at the beginning of title 38, United States Code, and of part III, are each amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 43 the following new item:

“44. Assistance allowance for rural veteran teachers ..... 4401”.

SEC. 20. PROMOTING JOBS FOR VETERANS THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 712. Internship program

“(a) INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.—From amounts available in the ‘General operating expenses’ account of the Department, the Secretary may carry out an internship program through which the Secretary shall award internships to up to 2,000 veterans each year in accordance with this section. The recipient of an internship under this section shall be employed in the Veterans Benefits Administration for the duration of the internship.

“(b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive an internship under this section a veteran shall have completed a rehabilitation program under chapter 31 of this title. In awarding internships under this section, the Secretary shall give a preference to a veteran

who has completed a program of long-term education or training, as determined by the Secretary.

“(c) SALARY; BENEFITS.—(1) Each recipient of an internship under this section shall be paid at a rate determined by the Secretary, except that such rate shall be at least the maximum annual rate of basic pay payable for grade GS-3 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, and shall not exceed the maximum annual rate of basic pay payable for grade GS-5 of such schedule. Payments under this paragraph shall be derived from amounts available in the ‘General operating expenses’ account of the Department.

“(2) Each such recipient shall be entitled to leave on the same basis as employees of the Department who are paid at the same annual rate, except that such recipient may not be reimbursed for any unused leave at the end of the internship.

“(3) The Secretary shall furnish hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care to each recipient of an internship under this section on the same basis as a veteran described in subsection (b) of paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of section 1710 of this title unless the recipient is eligible for such care and services under subparagraph (A) of such paragraph or under paragraph (1) of such subsection.

“(4) The recipient of an internship under this section may receive an allowance under section 3108 of this title if such recipient is entitled to such an allowance.

“(d) DURATION.—No internship under this section shall exceed 12 months in duration.

“(e) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall notify each participant in a rehabilitation program under chapter 31 of this title of the internship program under this section.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is

amended by inserting after the item relating to section 711 the following new item:

“712. Internship program.”.

**SEC. 21. VETERANS ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 81 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“§1219. Veterans entrepreneurial development summit**

“(a) VETERANS ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT.—The Secretary may hold an event, once every year, to provide networking opportunities, outreach, education, training, and support to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans, veterans service organizations, and other entities as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2011 and 2021.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to subchapter II the following:

“8129. Veterans entrepreneurial development summit.”.

**SEC. 22. INCREASE IN THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED TO BE PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2102 is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “\$12,000” and inserting “\$13,756”; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$60,000” and inserting “\$65,780”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$12,000” and inserting “\$13,756”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to assistance furnished after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 23. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HOUSING LOANS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ENERGY EFFICIENT DWELLINGS.**

(a) LOANS AUTHORIZED.—Section 3710(d) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting “(A) The Secretary”;

(B) by striking “for the acquisition of” and all that follows through the end and inserting “for any of the following purposes:”;

(C) by adding at the end the following new clauses:

“(i) The acquisition of an existing dwelling and the cost of making energy efficiency improvements to the dwelling.

“(ii) The construction of a new dwelling and the cost of making energy efficiency improvements to the dwelling.

“(iii) Energy efficiency improvements to a dwelling owned and occupied by a veteran.”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(B) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a loan may be guaranteed under this subsection only if it meets the requirements of this chapter.

“(C) The Secretary shall determine appropriate energy efficiency standards for purposes of this subsection and shall require that dwellings purchased, constructed, or improved using a loan guaranteed under this subsection meet such standards.”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following new subparagraphs (A) and (B):

“(A) five percent of the total established value of the property, dwelling, and improvements; or

“(B) \$6,000, or a higher amount specifically provided by the Secretary.”.

(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue guidance on appraising the value of energy efficiency improvements for purposes of section 3710(d) of title 38, United States Code, as amended by this Act.

(c) REGULATIONS.—

(1) INTERIM POLICY GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prescribe interim policy guidance on energy efficiency audits and the conditions under which the performance of such audits may be included in the amount guaranteed by the Secretary under section 3710(d) of title 38, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a).

(2) REGULATIONS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out the amendments made by subsection (a).

(3) ENERGY EFFICIENCY AUDIT DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term “energy efficiency audit” means a measurement of the effects of an improvement made to a dwelling for the purpose of reducing energy consumption or increasing energy efficiency that is carried out by a certified professional auditor, as determined by the Secretary.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall apply with respect to a loan secured on or after January 1, 2011.

**SEC. 24. PILOT PROGRAM ON SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS RESIDING TEMPORARILY IN HOUSING OWNED BY A FAMILY MEMBER.**

(a) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding subsection (d) of section 2102 of title 38, United States Code, and subject to subsection (b), a grant under section 2102A of such title shall not count toward the dollar amount limitations specified in that subsection.

(b) TERMINATION.—Subsection (a) shall apply only to the first 25 grants made during fiscal year 2011.

**SEC. 25. COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO ACT OF 2010.**

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. FILNER. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5360.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to commend, Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman STEPHANIE HERSETH

SANDLIN for introducing H.R. 5360, also known as the HELP Veterans Act of 2010. For the last 4 years, as the chair of the Economic Opportunities Subcommittee, the Congresswoman has held hearings to investigate the needs raised by veterans, worked directly with veterans service groups to craft solutions and advance important policy to respond.

This is a comprehensive bill that addresses the critical issues facing veterans: housing, education, employment. It is a collaboration amongst a number of Members working together to make an impact and strengthen the economic opportunities for veterans.

Mr. Speaker, we know that in today's terrible 10 percent unemployment rate for the Nation, veterans as a whole are almost double that, and recently returned veterans are almost triple that. We, as a body and as a Nation, need to far more directly confront this issue. This is not a way to say “thank you” to our veterans who have served us, and this is one bill that will help make an improvement in all this.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, this bill has been adequately explained by the gentleman from California, and it does enjoy strong bipartisan support.

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5360, the Housing, Employment and Living Programs (HELP) for Veterans Act of 2010, which the Veterans Affairs Committee approved with bipartisan support on Sept. 15, 2010.

I would like to thank Veterans Affairs Chairman FILNER and Ranking Member BUYER for their leadership on the committee and their support of this legislation.

I introduced the original version of H.R. 5360 on May 20, 2010, with the support of my colleague, Economic Opportunity Subcommittee Ranking Member BOOZMAN. The bill, as introduced, was titled the “Blinded Veterans Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2010.” The Blinded Veterans Adaptive Housing Improvement Act aligns the VA's definition of blindness with existing federal laws with regards to eligibility criteria for Specially Adapted Housing Grants. The Economic Opportunity Subcommittee that I chair held a hearing in November 2009 that identified this excessively restrictive definition as having prevented some visually impaired veterans from qualifying for the assistance they need to modify their homes for their disability.

Thanks to a concerted bipartisan effort by Ranking Member BOOZMAN, the other members of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, and other members of the full Veterans Affairs Committee, H.R. 5360 was improved and expanded throughout the legislative process to provide aid and assistance to many veterans beyond the visually impaired. I'm pleased the committee worked together in a bipartisan way to craft the final version of this legislation.

Importantly, these benefit improvements for veterans don't add a dime to the deficit. They are fully paid for by making a change that the VA requested to regulations regarding the VA's Home Loan Guarantee program.

H.R. 5360, now known as the HELP Veterans Act, improves benefits to veterans in a

number of areas in addition to the assistance for blinded veterans, including:

Increasing apprenticeship, on-the-job training and flight training educational benefits through the Montgomery G.I. Bill.

Extending authorization for the VA's work-study program for student veterans to 2020 and authorizing new program standards to allow these veterans to work in Congressional offices as part of their work-study.

Temporarily reducing, for the three years, the requirement for private employers to provide a wage increase for veterans participating in an approved on-the-job training program.

Reauthorizing the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education.

Improving the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program by providing reimbursement for certified child care assistance for single parents as well as increasing the subsistence allowance payable to veterans participating in VR&E by 5.2 percent.

Updating regulations for VA educational benefit programs to increase the reporting fees payable to educational institutions as well as modifying the rules for advance payment of educational assistance to prevent any break in educational benefits.

Giving the Department of Labor the authority to make grants to programs and facilities to provide services for homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children.

Again, I wish to thank Ranking Member BOOZMAN and the rest of my colleagues on the committee for the cooperative and bipartisan spirit in which they worked to better serve our veterans through this legislation. I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 5360, the HELP Veterans Act.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for another bipartisan bill H.R. 5360, despite my deep disappointment that certain veteran-friendly small business provisions passed unanimously by the Veterans Affairs Committee have been stricken from the bill before us today. Those provisions directly would have improved opportunities for small businesses owned and controlled by service disabled veterans.

H.R. 5360, is a bill that is a compilation of several bills reported to the Veterans Affairs Committee by the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity under the leadership of the distinguished Chairwoman STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN and I appreciate her work and that of Ranking Member BOOZMAN and Chairman FILNER for bringing this bill to the floor.

At a time when small businesses are facing a continuing shortage of credit, I am delighted to see that the bill includes section five which I introduced to reestablish the VA's small business loan program that expired in 1986. Under section five, VA would be authorized to guarantee small business loans up to \$200,000 made by financial institutions. VA would also be required to contract with a financial institution experienced in this field to manage the program. I had originally introduced a similar provision in H.R. 293 and H.R. 4220.

However, I am deeply disappointed that the Democrats on the Small Business Committee led by Chairwoman NADIA VELÁZQUEZ once again chose to favor other small business set aside groups over service disabled veteran-owned small business by objecting to section 21 which I also included in this bill by amendment at the Full Committee markup. Section 21 would have merely leveled the playing field

for service disabled veteran-owned small businesses when competing with other set aside groups for VA contracts by changing the word "may" to "shall" when awarding sole source contracts to service disabled veteran-owned small businesses.

The Veterans Affairs Committee unanimously passed both of these provisions in hope that an additional source of credit backed by the VA will encourage lenders to increase the amount of credit and that a level playing field is the right thing to do for small businesses owned and controlled by service disabled veterans. It is truly unfortunate that Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ and Speaker PELOSI continue their history of opposing provisions that would benefit disabled veteran-owned small business.

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate indeed that about 10 percent of homeless veterans are women and a significant percentage of those veterans bring children with them. So I am also pleased that the bill includes another provision which I introduced to establish a Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program for Women or HVRP-W. This program will focus on homeless programs specially designed to serve homeless women veterans and veterans with children. A veteran, especially one with children at their side should never be homeless.

Section 13 of the bill contains a provision introduced by Mr. BOOZMAN to encourage research and development in the field of assistive technologies used to adapt the homes of severely injured veterans. This authority will make a disabled veterans' homes just a bit more livable.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that our young people need positive role models. That is why the provisions I introduced as part of H.R. 4220 are an important part in this bill. Section 19 would provide a small temporary stipend to veterans who are new teachers in rural areas. Therefore, we are not only helping veterans to become teachers in rural areas, but we are also showing our next generation of America's what it means to make a commitment to the nation.

Section 20 would also provide one-year internship jobs at VA for up to 2,000 graduates of the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program. These positions will provide service disabled veterans with work experience while helping VA meet the needs of their fellow veterans.

Anyone who has renovated a home recently knows the cost of construction continues to climb more rapidly than the overall inflation rate. Severely disabled veteran often need their homes adapted to make them more livable. That is why Mr. BOOZMAN introduced provisions to make a small increase in the grants made under VA's Specially Adapted Home program. These provisions would increase the existing small grant to \$13,756 and the large grant to \$65,780.

Mr. Speaker, section 24 contains provisions also introduced by Mr. BOOZMAN as H.R. 4259 known as the WARMER Act. This bill updates the types and maximum values of energy efficiency loans that VA may guarantee while directing VA to standardize its appraisal process to ensure energy efficiency improvements are properly valued.

Finally, section 25 is a provision introduced by Mr. MORAN of Kansas to make it easier for severely disabled veterans to use the Tem-

porary Residence Adaptation or TRA grant. TRA grants make small grants up to \$12,000 available to adapt the homes of family members with whom a severely injured veteran is living. Normally, TRA grants are deducted from the veterans overall grant, thus reducing subsequent grants. The provision would allow VA to issue up to 25 grants in Fiscal Year 2011 without reducing the veterans total award. This will help determine whether disabled veterans would be more likely to use the TRA grant.

Mr. Speaker, I want to ensure the Members of my support for this excellent bill despite the removal of several provisions that would benefit veteran-owned small businesses at this critical time and urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5360.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FILNER. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5360, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## VETERANS BENEFITS AND ECONOMIC WELFARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2010

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6132) to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a transition program for new veterans, to improve the disability claim system, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6132

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Veterans Benefits and Economic Welfare Improvement Act of 2010".

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Military transition program.
- Sec. 3. Waiver of claim development period for claims under laws administered by Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 4. Tolling of timing of review for appeals of final decisions of Board of Veterans' Appeals.
- Sec. 5. Exclusion of certain amounts from determination of annual income with respect to pensions for veterans and surviving spouses and children of veterans.