

"section 1303 of title 41, United States Code,"; and

(ii) in subsection (d), by striking "section 25 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 421)" and substituting "section 1303 of title 41, United States Code,".

(8) Section 6(b) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172, 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "section 25 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 421)" and substituting "section 1303 of title 41, United States Code";

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking "section 25 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 421)" and substituting "section 1303 of title 41, United States Code"; and

(C) in paragraph (6), by striking "section 4 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 403)" and substituting "section 133 of title 41, United States Code".

(9) Section 802(a)(4) of the David L. Boren National Security Education Act of 1991 (50 U.S.C. 1902(a)(4)) is amended by striking "section 3709 of the Revised Statutes (41 U.S.C. 5)" and substituting "section 6101 of title 41, United States Code,".

(10) Section 3212(c) of the National Nuclear Security Administration Act (50 U.S.C. 2402(c)) is amended by striking "section 16(3) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 414(3))" and substituting "section 1702(c)(1) and (2) of title 41, United States Code".

(11) Section 3262 of the National Nuclear Security Administration Act (50 U.S.C. 2462) is amended by striking "Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 401 et seq.," and substituting "provisions referred to in section 172(b) of title 41, United States Code".

(12) Section 4421(f) of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2601(f)) is amended by striking "section 304B(d) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 254c(d))" and substituting "section 3903(a) and (e) of title 41, United States Code".

(13) Section 4801(b)(1) of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2781(b)(1)) is amended by striking "section 22 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 418b)" and substituting "section 1707 of title 41, United States Code".

SEC. 39. TITLE 50 APPENDIX, UNITED STATES CODE.

(1) Section 8(b) of the Joint Resolution of December 30, 1947 (ch. 526, 50 App. U.S.C. 1918(b)) is amended by striking "sections 3709 and 3648 of the Revised Statutes, as amended (U.S.C., title 41, sec. 5, and title 31, sec. 529)" and substituting "section 3324(a) and (b) of title 31, United States Code, and section 6101 of title 41, United States Code".

(2) The Act of July 26, 1956 (ch. 738, 50 App. U.S.C. 1941 note) is amended by striking "the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949" and substituting "chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code".

(3) Section 107(b)(2)(B)(ii) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (ch. 932, 50 App. U.S.C. 2077(b)(2)(B)(ii)) is amended by striking "section 303(b)(1)(B) or section 303(c)(3) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949" and substituting "section 3303(a)(1)(B) or section 3304(a)(3) of title 41, United States Code".

(4) Section 704(b) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (ch. 932, 50 App. U.S.C. 2154(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking "section 25 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act" and substituting "section 1303 of title 41, United States Code"; and

(B) by striking "section 6 or 25 of that Act" and substituting "section 1121(b) and (d) or 1303(a)(1) of that title".

(5) Section 709(c) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (ch. 932, 50 App. U.S.C. 2159(c)) is amended by striking "section 22 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act" and substituting "section 1707 of title 41, United States Code".

SEC. 40. TITLE 51, UNITED STATES CODE.

(1) Section 20113(c)(4) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking "chapters 1 to 11 of title 40 and in accordance with title III of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 251 et seq.," and substituting "chapter 5 of title 40".

(2) Section 30704(2) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking "the Buy American Act (41 U.S.C. 10a et seq.," and substituting "chapter 83 of title 41".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 6080, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the rules of the House entrust to the Judiciary Committee the responsibilities of revision and codification of the statutes of the United States. This power does not give our committee substantive legislative jurisdiction over all areas of law. It merely confers the authority to organize duly enacted laws into an efficient codification system.

The nonpartisan Office of Law Revision Counsel is responsible for properly codifying public laws into titles and sections of the United States Code. From time to time, that office provides the Judiciary Committee with advice as to how to enact a more user-friendly and cohesive statutory system.

This spring, Republican and Democratic committee staff worked cooperatively with the Office of Law Revision Counsel to develop H.R. 6080. The bill makes technical improvements to title 41 of United States Code, which contains Federal laws that govern public contracts. The bill makes no changes to substantive law.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to join my colleague, Judiciary Committee Chairman LAMAR SMITH, in bringing this bill to the floor. This is a commonsense bill. As has been noted, it makes technical revisions to bipartisan legislation

enacted during the 111th Congress that created the new title 41 to the U.S.C., which pertains to public contracts.

This bill was prepared by the Office of Law Revision Counsel as part of its ongoing responsibility to draft and submit to the Committee on the Judiciary, one title at a time, a complete compilation, restatement and revision of the general and permanent laws of the United States.

The bill makes conforming amendments to laws contained in title 41, corrects references that require more particular reference. In addition, the bill omits references to outdated or repealed laws, makes clarifying revisions to sections of title 41 that do not provide meanings for particular words for the purpose of clarity, and corrects two cross-references to public laws that may have been erroneously included.

The bill is not intended to make any substantive changes to the law. As is typical with the codification process, a number of nonsubstantive revisions are made, including the revision of sections into a more coherent overall structure; but these changes, as I've said, are not intended to have any substantive effect.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. And I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Office of the Law Revision Counsel for its good work. This makes the practice of law more coherent in the United States.

We have no speakers, and so I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6080.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REAUTHORIZING CERTAIN VISA PROGRAMS

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3245) to extend by 3 years the authorization of the EB-5 Regional Center Program, the E-Verify Program, the Special Immigrant Nonminister Religious Worker Program, and the Conrad State 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Program.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3245

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

SECTION 1. REAUTHORIZATION OF EB-5 REGIONAL CENTER PROGRAM.

Section 610 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1993 (8 U.S.C. 1153 note) is amended—

(1) by striking "pilot" each place such term appears; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking "September 30, 2012" and inserting "September 30, 2015".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF E-VERIFY.

Section 401(b) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) is amended by striking “September 30, 2012” and inserting “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF SPECIAL IMMIGRANT NONMINISTER RELIGIOUS WORKER PROGRAM.

Section 101(a)(27)(C)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(C)(ii)) is amended—

(1) in subclause (II), by striking “September 30, 2012” and inserting “September 30, 2015”; and

(2) in subclause (III), by striking “September 30, 2012” and inserting “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 4. REAUTHORIZATION OF CONRAD STATE 30 J-1 VISA WAIVER PROGRAM.

Section 220(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Technical Corrections Act of 1994 (8 U.S.C. 1182 note) is amended by striking “September 30, 2012” and inserting “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 5. NO AUTHORITY FOR NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARD.

Nothing in this Act may be construed to authorize the planning, testing, piloting, or development of a national identification card.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on S. 3245, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I'd like to thank the Senate Judiciary Committee chairman and ranking member for introducing this legislation and for working with me to help ensure that four key immigration-related programs do not expire at the end of this month.

This Congress must ensure there is a national business climate that fosters the ability of private enterprise to create jobs for Americans and legal workers.

S. 3245, which extends for 3 years the E-Verify, EB-5 Regional Center Pilot, the Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver, and the Special Immigrant Nonminister Religious Worker programs, helps achieve this goal in several ways.

First, the E-Verify program allows employers to electronically verify that newly hired employees are authorized to work in the United States. The program is free, quick, and easy to use. Nearly 400,000 American employers use E-Verify, and over 1,000 new businesses sign up for it every week.

The American public overwhelmingly supports E-Verify. Last year, a Ras-

mussen poll found that 82 percent of likely voters “think businesses should be required to use the Federal Government’s E-Verify system to determine if a potential employee is in the country legally.”

E-Verify has also received bipartisan congressional support in the past. In 2008, the House passed a 5-year extension of E-Verify by a vote of 407-2. And in 2009, the Senate passed a permanent E-Verify extension by voice vote.

Ensuring that businesses have access to E-Verify will help preserve jobs for the 23 million Americans who are currently unemployed or looking for full-time work.

The investor visa program also helps create jobs for Americans. Under this program, 10,000 immigrants can receive permanent residence each year if they engage in a new commercial enterprise, invest between \$500,000 and \$1 million in the business, and see that it creates 10 full-time jobs for American workers.

The Regional Center Pilot Project, which is almost two decades old, has reinvigorated the investor visa program. Investment through a regional center is especially attractive to potential investors because they are relieved of the responsibility of running a new business. They can also count indirect job creation towards the job creation requirement. Most investor visa petitions now involve regional centers.

It appears that investors may feel more confident about a regional center that is operated through a State or city government. In these hard economic times, many State and local governments have turned to regional centers as a method of generating economic growth.

The Association to Invest in the United States of America has estimated the regional center program has created or saved over 65,000 jobs in the U.S. and has led to the investment of over \$3 billion in the U.S. economy.

S. 3245 also extends for 3 years a program that has successfully brought needed doctors to medically underserved areas in the U.S. This program was designed by Senator KENT CONRAD. It allows foreign doctors who have been in the U.S. on exchange programs to stay at the conclusion of their residencies if they agree to practice medicine for at least 3 years in health professional shortage areas. This is a valuable provision, and I support its reauthorization.

□ 1550

Finally, S. 3245 extends the Special Immigrant Nonminister Religious Worker Program. Under this program, 5,000 immigrant visas can be issued to nonminister individuals who have been members of the denomination and who have worked in the capacity for which they are applying for at least the 2 years immediately following the visa applications. Historically, the program has been plagued by fraud, but the Bush administration took steps to help prevent much of the fraud, and now

many churches and religious organizations in the United States rely on these immigrant nonministers. I look forward to making statutory changes aimed at even more fraud prevention, and I support the program’s extension.

Again, I want to thank Senator LEAHY and Senator GRASSLEY for their leadership on this bill. All four of these programs are important, and I urge my colleagues to support S. 3245.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I do rise in strong support of this bill. Specifically, this bill extends until September 30, 2015, these four long-standing immigration programs that are set to expire otherwise at the end of this month. They are valuable programs, and they serve different purposes.

The one, the Special Immigrant Nonminister Religious Worker Program, allows religious workers to enter the United States to do important work. There are 5,000 religious workers eligible for these visas each year when they are called to a vocation or are in a traditional religious occupation with a bona fide nonprofit religious organization. They are missionaries, counselors, instructors, and pastoral care providers. They really help our country.

The second program, the Conrad “J Waiver,” helps medically underserved communities attract highly skilled physicians. This program literally provides a lifeline for communities that desperately need doctors who received their medical training in the United States. It is absolutely necessary that this program continues to exist so that States can attract medical talent and can keep the doors of small town clinics open.

The third program, the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Pilot Program, allocates 3,000—out of the EB-5 category’s 10,000—visas each year for EB-5 investors who invest in these designated regional centers. This pilot program is important to our Nation’s economy as it represents, actually, billions of dollars in aggregate immigrant investment, and it creates more than 20,000 new direct and indirect jobs each year.

The final program that would be extended under the bill is E-Verify, the basic pilot program first authorized in 1996. Now, Chairman SMITH and I disagree on how effective this bill is. I don’t believe it’s ready for mandatory nationwide use because of errors in the system and, more broadly, because of major dysfunctions in our immigration system, but that doesn’t mean I disagree that this program should be extended. I do. This program is voluntary, and by extending the E-Verify program as it currently exists, it will provide Congress additional time to work toward improving the program and fixing our Nation’s immigration laws so that they work for American families, businesses, and the economy as a whole.

I should note that this bill received unanimous support in the Senate. Likewise, I hope that all of my colleagues in this Chamber will support this bipartisan legislation so that it can be quickly sent to the President's desk for his signature.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, we do have two Members who would like to address this briefly. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN).

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3245, which would, in part, reauthorize the EB-5 visa program for 3 years. This EB-5 program will create good American jobs.

Last year, I worked with Senator LEAHY to write H.R. 2972, the Creating American Jobs Through Foreign Capital Act. That legislation would have reauthorized EB-5 permanently. While the bill before us today extends the program for only 3 years, it is still an important job creator that we must pass. The program allows qualified foreign investors who invest in the U.S. and who create or save at least 10 full-time American jobs to seek U.S. visas. This program brings overseas capital to the U.S. to create jobs for people in my district and across America.

There are two projects in Everett, Washington, currently being financed through the EB-5 program. One is a college building. If this bill is not passed, our area will lose this building and the opportunities associated with it. The second investment is one for a building that houses a regional farmers' market, which is a project that has been in the works and is almost done. This project will help local farmers regionally and create jobs. If this bill is not passed, again, this project, which is set to be finished soon, will not be completed, and all finance and investments will be lost. In another part of my district, in Whatcom County, the local EB-5 center has leveraged more than \$34 million from immigrant investors to create more than 800 good local jobs.

The EB-5 program is a real threefer: It's a win for American workers, who benefit from thousands of new jobs; it's a win for the taxpayer because it doesn't add one penny to the national deficit; third, it helps the U.S. compete on a global scale. The U.S. EB-5 visa program is one of more than 20 similar programs run by other important, growing economies like Hong Kong, New Zealand, Australia, and Singapore.

Our economy cannot afford to do without these investments or these jobs. If we don't keep this road open for foreign investment into the U.S., that investment will choose another country's road. Congress must extend the EB-5 program so that we can continue to create new jobs at a time when we need them most.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH).

Mr. WELCH. I thank the gentlewoman from California, and I thank the gentleman from Texas.

This is terrific. The EB-5 program works. We're doing it together. We're working with the Senate, and we're getting something done. Let me tell you that the place we're getting something done includes the Sugarbush Valley and the Mad River Valley in Vermont, in the Northeast Kingdom, where we've had, among other jobs created, two ski areas that have been able to take advantage of the EB-5 program—to get investor money and to build the infrastructure that is so essential to the tourist economy that we have in Vermont. So this is a program that works, and it is delightful to me to be able to participate in reinstating this program so that it can continue to help create jobs and promote economic development in my State of Vermont.

I thank the gentleman from Texas and the gentlewoman from California for their leadership on this and for the bipartisan team of Senator LEAHY and Senator GRASSLEY in the United States Senate.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. I have no additional speakers, and I would be happy to yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I just want to thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) for her continued interest and leadership in the subject of immigration, and I especially appreciate her support of this bill today.

I yield back the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE
WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, September 10, 2012.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to confirm our mutual understanding with respect to the consideration of S. 3245, a bill that reauthorizes certain immigration provisions. Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Education and the Workforce with regard to S. 3245 on those matters within the committee's jurisdiction.

In the interest of expediting the House's consideration of S. 3245, the Committee on Education and the Workforce will forgo further consideration on this bill. However, I do so only with the understanding that this procedural route will not be construed to prejudice the committee's jurisdictional interest and prerogatives on this bill or any other similar legislation and will not be considered as precedent for consideration of matters of jurisdictional interest to my committee in the future.

I respectfully request your support for the appointment of outside conferees from the Committee on Education and the Workforce should this bill or a similar bill be considered in a conference with the Senate. I also request that you include our exchange of letters on this matter in the Committee Report on S. 3245 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the

House floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

JOHN KLINE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, September 11, 2012.

Hon. JOHN KLINE,

Chairman, Committee on Education and the Workforce, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN KLINE, Thank you for your letter dated September 10, 2012 regarding S. 3245, a bill that reauthorizes certain immigration provisions. I am most appreciative of your decision to forego consideration of the bill so that it may move expeditiously to the House floor.

I acknowledge that although you are waiving formal consideration of the bill, the Committee on Education and the Workforce is in no way waiving its jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in the bill. In addition, if a conference is necessary on this legislation, I will support any request that your committee be represented therein.

Finally, I shall be pleased to include your letter and this reply letter memorializing our mutual understanding in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of S. 3245.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Chairman LAMAR SMITH and S. 3245 which reauthorizes the E-Verify program for an additional three years.

First, I would like to thank Chairman SMITH for his leadership and support of the E-Verify program. The Chairman has steadfastly supported E-Verify, helped expand the program and provided for several reauthorizations. I commend his leadership and value his hard work on E-Verify and immigration issues.

S. 3245 provides for a simple three year reauthorization of the popular E-Verify program. In 1996, when I first wrote the legislation that created the E-Verify pilot program, I had humble expectations. Now, 16 years after its inception it has 399,538 employers participating at 1.2 million employer sites. So far in FY 2012, there have been more than 19.6 million queries run through the system. Congress and the entire Federal Government is required to use the system and several states have made use of the program mandatory for their employers.

E-Verify continues to defy expectations: it is 99.5 percent accurate, free to employers and easy to use. It continues to develop new ways to combat illegal employment such as Photo Tool, Self Lock, and Fraud Alert.

The next step, which Chairman SMITH, Subcommittee Chairman GALLEGLY and I have been working on, is to make E-Verify mandatory for all employers in the U.S. With unemployment stuck above 8 percent for the 43rd consecutive month, it is time we ensure that American jobs are going to American workers and those legally authorized to work in the U.S. I am hopeful that the House will consider H.R. 2885 before the end of the year; the only way to truly gain control of our borders is to end the jobs magnet that brings people here illegally.

In the meantime, it is necessary that we reauthorize E-Verify for an additional three years and again, I commend Chairman SMITH and look forward to working with him on our efforts to make E-Verify mandatory.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3245, extending authorization of the EB-5 Regional Center program another three years to September 2015. The EB-5 program provides conditional permanent resident status to foreign investors in economic units known as Regional Centers. In doing so, the program promotes economic growth, improves regional productivity, and creates jobs in the geographic area where a Center is located. This is exactly the kind of incentive needed in my district, the Northern Mariana Islands, which has seen gross domestic product decline from \$1.2 billion in 2002 to \$600 million in 2009. Already several proposals have come forward for the Northern Mariana Islands, predicated on the establishment EB-5 Regional Centers, that will inject foreign investment capital and create jobs. These Regional Centers do not just represent jobs and salary for their direct employees—they represent investments in our community. For every new job created, and for every additional dollar of salary paid, our workforce and pay scale are benefitted across the board. The extension of this program provided in S. 3245 will ensure that these opportunities can continue to benefit our economy. I commend Senator LEAHY and Senator GRASSLEY for introducing this bipartisan legislation and the bipartisan House leadership for bringing this bill to the floor for approval.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHAFFETZ). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3245. The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

IMPROVING TRANSPARENCY OF EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2012

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4057) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop a comprehensive policy to improve outreach and transparency to veterans and members of the Armed Forces through the provision of information on institutions of higher learning, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4057

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

SECTION 1. COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON PROVIDING EDUCATION INFORMATION TO VETERANS.

(a) COMPREHENSIVE POLICY REQUIRED.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§3698. Comprehensive policy on providing education information to veterans

“(a) COMPREHENSIVE POLICY REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall develop a comprehensive policy

to improve outreach and transparency to veterans and members of the Armed Forces through the provision of information on institutions of higher learning.

“(b) SCOPE.—In developing the policy required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall include each of the following elements:

“(1) The most effective way to inform individuals of the educational and vocational counseling provided under section 3697A of this title.

“(2) A centralized way to track and publish feedback from students and State approving agencies regarding the quality of instruction and accreditation, recruiting practices, and post-graduation employment placement of institutions of higher learning.

“(3) The merit of and the manner in which a State approving agency shares with an accrediting agency or association recognized by the Secretary of Education under subpart 2 of part H of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1099b et seq.) information regarding the State approving agency’s evaluation of an institution of higher learning.

“(4) The manner in which information regarding institutions of higher learning is provided to individuals participating in the Transition Assistance Program under section 1144 of title 10.

“(5) The most effective way to provide veterans and members of the Armed Forces with information regarding postsecondary education and training opportunities available to the veteran or member.

“(c) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION INFORMATION.—(1) The Secretary shall ensure that the information provided pursuant to subsection (b)(5) includes—

“(A) an explanation of the different types of accreditation available to educational institutions and programs of education;

“(B) a description of Federal student aid programs; and

“(C) for each institution of higher learning, for the most recent academic year for which information is available—

“(i) whether the institution is public, private nonprofit, or proprietary for-profit;

“(ii) the name of the national or regional accrediting agency that accredits the institution, including the contact information used by the agency to receive complaints from students;

“(iii) information on the State approving agency, including the contact information used by the agency to receive complaints from students;

“(iv) whether the institution participates in programs under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.);

“(v) the tuition and fees;

“(vi) the median amount of debt from Federal student loans under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) held by students at institution;

“(vii) the cohort default rate, as defined in section 435(m) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1085(m)), of the institution;

“(viii) the enrollment rates, graduation rates, and retention rates;

“(ix) for each program of education offered by the institution that is designed to prepare a student for an occupation that requires a licensure or certification test offered by a Federal, State, or local government or has other preconditions or requirements, the degree to which the program prepares the student for the particular occupation;

“(x) whether the institution provides students with technical support, academic support, and other support services, including career counseling and job placement; and

“(xi) whether the institution accepts academic credit by students who are transferring to the institution, including credits awarded by a proprietary for-profit institution.

“(2) To the extent possible, the Secretary shall provide the information described in paragraph (1) by including hyperlinks on the Internet website of the Department to other websites that

contain such information in a form that is comprehensive and easily understood by veterans, members, and other individuals.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘institution of higher learning’ has the meaning given that term in section 3452(f) of this title.

“(2) The term ‘postsecondary education and training opportunities’ means any postsecondary program of education, including apprenticeships and on-job training, for which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs provides assistance to a veteran or member of the Armed Forces.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding after the item relating to section 3697A the following new item:

“3698. Comprehensive policy on providing education information to veterans.”.

(b) PROHIBITION ON INDUCEMENTS.—Section 3696 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) The Secretary shall not approve an educational institution if the educational institution provides any commission, bonus, or other incentive payment based directly or indirectly on success in securing enrollments or financial aid to any persons or entities engaged in any student recruiting or admission activities or in making decisions regarding the award of student financial assistance.”.

(c) SURVEY.—In developing the policy required by section 3698(a) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), the Secretary shall conduct a market survey to determine the availability of the following:

(1) A commercially available off-the-shelf online tool that allows a veteran or member of the Armed Forces to assess whether the veteran or member is academically ready to engage in postsecondary education and training opportunities and whether the veteran or member would need any remedial preparation before beginning such opportunities.

(2) A commercially available off-the-shelf online tool that provides a veteran or member of the Armed Forces with a list of providers of postsecondary education and training opportunities based on criteria selected by the veteran or member.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report that includes—

(1) a description of the policy developed by the Secretary under section 3698(a) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a);

(2) a plan of the Secretary to implement such policy; and

(3) the results of the survey conducted under subsection (b), including whether the Secretary plans to implement the tools described in such subsection.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ‘commercially available off-the-shelf’ has the meaning given that term in section 104 of title 41, United States Code.

(2) The term ‘postsecondary education and training opportunities’ means any postsecondary program of education, including apprenticeships and on-job training, for which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs provides assistance to a veteran or member of the Armed Forces.

SEC. 2. STATE CONSIDERATION OF MILITARY TRAINING IN GRANTING CERTAIN STATE CERTIFICATIONS AND LICENSES AS A CONDITION ON THE RECEIPT OF FUNDS FOR VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4102A(c) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: