

because the institution of higher learning closed before such individual could complete such program of education or because the individual anticipated that such institution of higher learning would close and withdrew from such program not more than 120 days before the date on which such institution of higher learning actually closed; and

“(ii) did not complete such program of education pursuant to a teach-out plan (as defined in section 487(f)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(f)(2))); or

“(B) pursued a program of education with educational assistance under this chapter at an institution of higher learning that the Secretary determines caused such harm to the individual as the Secretary determines equity requires that the individual receive relief under this section.

“(2) For purposes of this subsection and in the case of the closing of an institution of higher learning, the Secretary may increase the 120-day period specified in paragraph (1)(A)(i) if the Secretary determines that exceptional circumstances regarding such closing justify the increase.

“(b) RESTORATION OF ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall restore to each covered individual who used educational assistance under this chapter to pursue a program of education at an institution of higher learning—

“(1) as described in subparagraph (A) of subsection (a)(1) such individual's entitlement to educational assistance under this chapter in an amount equal to one month for each month of educational assistance used by the individual to pursue such program of education at such institution of higher learning; and

“(2) as described in subparagraph (B) of such subsection such individual's entitlement to educational assistance under this chapter in such amount as the Secretary determines equity requires.

“(c) RESTORATION OF ENTITLEMENT TO TUTORIAL ASSISTANCE.—In the case of a covered individual described in subsection (a)(1) who received benefits under section 3314 of this title to correct a deficiency of the covered individual in a course that was part of the program of education pursued by the covered individual as described in such subsection, the Secretary shall—

“(1) in a case described in subparagraph (A) of such subsection, restore to such covered individual such covered individual's entitlement to benefits under such section in an amount equal to the amount paid under such section for such correction; and

“(2) in a case described in subparagraph (B) of such subsection, restore to such covered individual such amount of such covered individual's entitlement to benefits under such section as the Secretary determines equity requires.

“(d) CONTINUED PAYMENT OF MONTHLY HOUSING STIPENDS.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), in the case of a covered individual described in subsection (a)(1) who in the case described in subparagraph (A) of such subsection was receiving a monthly housing stipend under this chapter while pursuing the program of education at the institution of higher learning that closed or who in a case described in subparagraph (B) of such subsection in which the covered individual was receiving a monthly housing stipend under this chapter while pursuing the program of education and stopped pursuing the program of education because of the harm caused by the institution of higher learning, the Secretary shall continue to pay to such covered individual such monthly housing stipend for the first month beginning after the covered individual stopped pursuing such program of education and for each month thereafter until the covered individual begins pursuing

a program of education at a new institution of higher learning with educational assistance under this chapter.

“(2) No individual may receive more than three months of monthly stipend under this subsection.

“(e) NATIONAL TESTS.—In the case of a covered individual who pursued a program of education at an institution of higher education as described in subsection (a)(1) and received educational assistance under section 3315A of this title for a national test for admission to such program of education or institution of higher learning or for course credit at such institution of higher learning, the Secretary shall restore to such covered individual the months of entitlement charged such covered individual pursuant to subsection (c) of such section for such educational assistance.

“(f) RELOCATION AND TRAVEL ASSISTANCE.—A payment under section 3318 of this title for pursuit of a program of education at an institution of higher learning as described in subsection (a)(1) of this section shall not be considered a payment of additional assistance under section 3318 of this title for purposes of subsection (d) of such section.

“(g) RECOVERY.—In a case of a covered individual who pursued a program of education at an institution of higher learning as described in subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall seek to recover from the institution of higher learning the value of—

“(1) the entitlement to educational assistance restored to the covered individual under subsections (b) and (e), if any;

“(2) the entitlement to tutorial assistance restored to the covered individual under subsection (c), if any;

“(3) the amount of monthly housing stipend paid to the covered individual under subsection (d)(1), if any; and

“(4) the additional assistance provided to the covered individual under section 3318 of this title for such pursuit, if any.

“(h) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘institution of higher learning’ has the meaning given that term in section 3452 of this title.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 33 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3318 the following new item:

“3318A. Assistance for individuals who pursue programs of education at institutions of higher learning that unexpectedly close.”.

(b) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in section 3318A of such title, as added by subsection (a)(1), or any other provision of law, shall be construed to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from restoring entitlement or continuing payment under such section before promulgating regulations to carry out such section.

(c) RETROACTIVE EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 3318A of such title, as added by subsection (a), shall apply as if it were enacted on the date of the enactment of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-252).

SA 2014. Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1049. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON FURTHER CUTS TO THE NUMBER OF BRIGADE COMBAT TEAMS OF THE ARMY.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) both the quantity and complexity of national security threats facing the United States have grown in recent years, particularly the threat posed by the terrorists of the self-declared Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and continuing aggression by the Russian Federation;

(2) the National Commission on the Future of the Army is currently assessing the appropriate force structure for the Army in light of these threats, and is required to report to Congress on that assessment by February 1, 2016; and

(3) in light of these growing threats and that assessment, the Department of Defense should not make further reductions in the number of brigade combat teams in the regular and reserve components of the Army, including the Army National Guard, which would be difficult and costly to reverse and would have an adverse impact on the ability of the Army to respond to global threats.

SA 2015. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 832. APPLICABILITY OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 13673 “FAIR PAY AND SAFE WORK-PLACES” TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CONTRACTORS.

(a) LIMITATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall limit the application of any acquisition regulations promulgated pursuant to Executive Order 13673 to contractors or subcontractors who have been suspended or debarred under the laws and regulations in effect on May 28, 2015, as a result of a Federal labor law violations covered by Executive Order 13673.

(b) COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall ensure that Department of Defense contractors or subcontractors who are not described under subsection (a) are not compelled or required to comply with the conditions for contracting eligibility as stated in any acquisition regulations promulgated to implement Executive Order 13673.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet during the session of the Senate on June 16, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Achieving the Promise of Health Information Technology: What Can Providers and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Do To Improve the Electronic Health Record User Experience?”

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Jamie

Garden of the committee staff on (202) 224-1409.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet during the session of the Senate on June 17, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Reauthorizing the Higher Education Act: Evaluating Accreditation's Role in Ensuring Quality."

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Jake Baker of the committee staff on (202) 224-0738.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO
MEET

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC
WORKS

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 11, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 11, 2015, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Blowing the Whistle on Retaliation: Accounts of Current and Former Federal Agency Whistleblowers."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 11, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Ryan Nagle, my State director, be granted floor privileges for the duration of today's session of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TO EXTEND THE AUTHORIZATION
TO CARRY OUT THE REPLACE-
MENT OF THE EXISTING MED-
ICAL CENTER OF THE DEPART-
MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN
DENVER, COLORADO

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consider-

ation of S. 1568, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1568) to extend the authorization to carry out the replacement of the existing medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver, Colorado, to authorize transfers of amounts to carry out the replacement of such medical center, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I thank Chairman ISAKSON of the Veterans' Affairs Committee for his tireless work on this legislation and Senator BLUMENTHAL as well as the co-sponsor of this legislation tonight, Senator BENNET, my colleague from Colorado.

This gives us the breathing room we need to finish the job in Colorado. We have more work to do with the Veterans' Administration, but tonight we can begin the process of starting to finish this job.

I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1568) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1568

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

**SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-
FAIRS MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY
PROJECT PREVIOUSLY AUTHOR-
IZED.**

Section 2(a) of the Construction Authorization and Choice Improvement Act (Public Law 114-19) is amended—

- (1) by striking "in fiscal year 2015,"; and
- (2) by striking "\$900,000,000" and inserting "\$1,050,000,000".

**SEC. 2. LIMITED, ONE-TIME AUTHORITY TO
TRANSFER SPECIFIC AMOUNTS TO
CARRY OUT MAJOR MEDICAL FAC-
ILITY PROJECT IN DENVER, COLO-
RADO.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Of the unobligated balances of amounts available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2015, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may transfer amounts from the appropriations accounts under the following headings, in the amounts and from the activities specified, to the appropriations account under the heading "Construction, Major Projects":

- (1) "Medical Services", \$6,494,000 to be derived from amounts available for the Human Capital Investment Plan.
- (2) "Medical Support and Compliance", \$1,611,000 to be derived from amounts available for the Human Capital Investment Plan.
- (3) "Medical Facilities", \$80,735,000 to be derived from amounts available for green energy projects of the Department and human capital investment plans.
- (4) "National Cemetery Administration", \$60,000 to be derived from amounts available for the Human Capital Investment Plan.
- (5) "General Administration", \$1,130,000 to be derived from amounts available for the Office of the Secretary.
- (6) "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration", \$670,000 to be de-

rived from amounts available for the Human Capital Investment Plan.

(7) "Information Technology Systems", \$240,000 to be derived from amounts available for the Human Capital Investment Plan.

(8) "Construction, Minor Projects", \$3,000,000 to be derived from amounts available for minor construction projects at the staff offices of the Department.

(b) TRANSFER OF AMOUNTS AVAILABLE IN FUNDS.—

(1) REVOLVING SUPPLY FUND.—Of the unobligated balances of amounts available in the revolving supply fund of the Department under section 8121 of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary may transfer \$20,030,000 to the appropriations account under the heading "Construction, Major Projects".

(2) FRANCHISE FUND.—Of the unobligated balances of amounts available in the Department of Veterans Affairs Franchise Fund established in title I of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104-204; 31 U.S.C. 501 note), the Secretary may transfer \$36,030,000 to the appropriations account under the heading "Construction, Major Projects".

(c) USE OF AMOUNTS AND AVAILABILITY.—The amounts transferred under subsections (a) and (b) shall—

- (1) be used only to carry out the major medical facility construction project in Denver, Colorado, specified in section 2 of the Construction Authorization and Choice Improvement Act (Public Law 114-19); and
- (2) remain available until September 30, 2016.

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SE-
CURITY INTEROPERABLE COM-
MUNICATIONS ACT**

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 95, H.R. 615.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 615) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

H.R. 615

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act" or the "DHS Interoperable Communications Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

- (1) the term "Department" means the Department of Homeland Security;
- (2) the term "interoperable communications" has the meaning given that term in section 701(d) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 3; and
- (3) the term "Under Secretary for Management" means the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security.