

(c) RENAMING.—Section 50702(a) is amended by striking “Commercialization” and inserting “Commerce”.

SEC. 302. FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE OF SPACE COMMERCE.

Section 50702(c) is amended by striking “Commerce.” and inserting “Commerce, including—

“(1) to foster the conditions for the economic growth and technological advancement of the United States space commerce industry;

“(2) to coordinate space commerce policy issues and actions within the Department of Commerce;

“(3) to represent the Department of Commerce in the development of United States policies and in negotiations with foreign countries to promote United States space commerce;

“(4) to promote the advancement of United States geospatial technologies related to space commerce, in cooperation with relevant interagency working groups; and

“(5) to provide support to Federal Government organizations working on Space-Based Positioning Navigation, and Timing policy, including the National Coordination Office for Space-Based Position, Navigation, and Timing.”.

TITLE IV—SPACE RESOURCE EXPLORATION AND UTILIZATION

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Space Resource Exploration and Utilization Act of 2015”.

SEC. 402. TITLE 51 AMENDMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle V is amended by adding at the end the following:

CHAPTER 513—SPACE RESOURCE COMMERCIAL EXPLORATION AND UTILIZATION

“Sec.

“51301. Definitions.

“51302. Commercial exploration and commercial recovery.

“51303. Asteroid resource and space resource rights.

§ 51301. Definitions

“In this chapter:

“(1) ASTEROID RESOURCE.—The term ‘asteroid resource’ means a space resource found on or within a single asteroid.

“(2) SPACE RESOURCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘space resource’ means an abiotic resource in situ in outer space.

“(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘space resource’ includes water and minerals.

“(3) UNITED STATES CITIZEN.—The term ‘United States citizen’ has the meaning given the term ‘citizen of the United States’ in section 50902.

§ 51302. Commercial exploration and commercial recovery

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The President, acting through appropriate Federal agencies, shall—

“(1) facilitate commercial exploration for and commercial recovery of space resources by United States citizens;

“(2) discourage government barriers to the development in the United States of economically viable, safe, and stable industries for commercial exploration for and commercial recovery of space resources in manners consistent with the international obligations of the United States; and

“(3) promote the right of United States citizens to engage in commercial exploration for and commercial recovery of space resources free from harmful interference, in accordance with the international obligations of the United States and subject to authorization and continuing supervision by the Federal Government.

“(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the President shall submit to Congress a report on commercial exploration for and commercial recovery of space resources by United States citizens that specifies—

“(1) the authorities necessary to meet the international obligations of the United States, including authorization and continuing supervision by the Federal Government; and

“(2) recommendations for the allocation of responsibilities among Federal agencies for the activities described in paragraph (1).

§ 51303. Asteroid resource and space resource rights

“A United States citizen engaged in commercial recovery of an asteroid resource or a space resource under this chapter shall be entitled to any asteroid resource or space resource obtained, including to possess, own, transport, use, and sell the asteroid resource or space resource obtained in accordance with applicable law, including the international obligations of the United States.”.

(b) TABLE OF CHAPTERS.—The table of chapters for title 51 is amended by adding at the end of the items for subtitle V the following:

“513. Space resource commercial exploration and utilization 51301”.

SEC. 403. DISCLAIMER OF EXTRATERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY.

It is the sense of Congress that by the enactment of this Act, the United States does not thereby assert sovereignty or sovereign or exclusive rights or jurisdiction over, or the ownership of, any celestial body.

SA 2806. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for Mr. ISAKSON) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1203, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; as follows:

Beginning on page 29, strike line 1 and all that follows through page 32, line 20, and insert the following:

SEC. 112. REPORTS ON PUBLIC ACCESS TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS RESEARCH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on increasing public access to scientific publications and digital data from research funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Identification of where on the Internet website of the Department the public will be able to access results of research funded by the Department or be referred to other sources to access the results of research funded by the Department.

(2) A description of the progress made by the Department in meeting public access requirements set forth in the Federal Register notice entitled “Policy and Implementation Plan for Public Access to Scientific Publications and Digital Data from Research Funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs” (80 Fed. Reg. 60751), including the following:

(A) Compliance of Department investigators with requirements relating to ensuring that research funded by the Department is accessible by the public.

(B) Ensuring data management plans of the Department include provisions for long-

term preservation of the scientific data resulting from research funded by the Department.

(3) An explanation of the factors used to evaluate the merit of data management plans of research funded by the Veterans Health Administration.

(4) An explanation of the process of the Department in effect that enables stakeholders to petition a change to the embargo period for a specific field and the factors considered during such process.

On page 33, line 6, strike “45” and insert “72”.

On page 43, strike lines 7 through 11 and insert the following:

(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the education and training program required under section 7302(a)(1) of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall include education and training of marriage and family therapists and licensed professional mental health counselors.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Beginning on page 43, strike line 19 and all that follows through page 44, line 9.

Beginning on page 65, strike line 3 and all that follows through page 70, line 8.

Beginning on page 91, strike line 22 and all that follows through page 92, line 1, and insert the following:

(a) IN GENERAL.—During the 10-year period beginning on September 26, 2015, the second sentence of subsection (c) of section 3684 of title 38, United States Code, shall be applied—

(1) by substituting “\$8” for “\$12”; and
(2) by substituting “\$12” for “\$15”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 406 of the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-175; 38 U.S.C. 3684 note), as amended by section 410 of the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-58), is hereby repealed.

SA 2807. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for Mr. BLUMENTHAL) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 302, expressing the sense of the Senate in support of Israel and in condemnation of Palestinian terror attacks; as follows:

On page 5, line 1, strike “the President and”.

SA 2808. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for Mr. BLUMENTHAL) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 302, expressing the sense of the Senate in support of Israel and in condemnation of Palestinian terror attacks; as follows:

Insert after the eleventh whereas clause of the preamble the following:

Whereas President Barack Obama condemned in the strongest terms Palestinian violence against innocent Israeli citizens and expressed his “strong belief that Israel has not just the right, but the obligation to protect itself”;

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 10, 2015, at 9 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 10, 2015, at 9:45 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 10, 2015, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Update on the Campaign against ISIS in Syria.”

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 10, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

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

21ST CENTURY VETERANS BENEFITS DELIVERY ACT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 267, S. 1203.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1203) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS. (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “21st Century Veterans Benefits Delivery and Other Improvements Act”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—HEALTH CARE MATTERS

Subtitle A—Expansion and Improvement of Health Care Benefits

Sec. 101. Improved access to appropriate immunizations for veterans.

Sec. 102. Expansion of provision of chiropractic care and services to veterans.

Subtitle B—Health Care Administration

Sec. 111. Expansion of availability of prosthetic and orthotic care for veterans.

Sec. 112. Public access to Department of Veterans Affairs research and data sharing between Departments.

Sec. 113. Revival of Intermediate Care Technician Pilot Program of Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 114. Transfer of health care provider credentialing data from Secretary of Defense to Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 115. Examination and treatment by Department of Veterans Affairs for emergency medical conditions and women in labor.

Subtitle C—Improvement of Medical Workforce

Sec. 121. Inclusion of mental health professionals in education and training program for health personnel of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 122. Expansion of qualifications for licensed mental health counselors of the Department of Veterans Affairs to include doctoral degrees.

Sec. 123. Requirement that physician assistants employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs receive competitive pay.

Sec. 124. Report on medical workforce of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

TITLE II—COMPENSATION AND OTHER BENEFITS MATTERS

Subtitle A—Benefits Claims Submission

Sec. 201. Participation of veterans service organizations in Transition Assistance Program.

Sec. 202. Requirement that Secretary of Veterans Affairs publish the average time required to adjudicate timely and untimely appeals.

Sec. 203. Determination of manner of appearance for hearings before Board of Veterans’ Appeals.

Subtitle B—Practices of Regional Offices Relating to Benefits Claims

Sec. 211. Comptroller General review of claims processing performance of regional offices of Veterans Benefits Administration.

Sec. 212. Inclusion in annual budget submission of information on capacity of Veterans Benefits Administration to process benefits claims.

Sec. 213. Report on staffing levels at regional offices of Department of Veterans Affairs after transition to National Work Queue.

Sec. 214. Annual report on progress in implementing Veterans Benefits Management System.

Sec. 215. Report on plans of Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reduce inventory of non-rating workload.

Sec. 216. Sense of Congress on increased transparency relating to claims for benefits and appeals of decisions relating to benefits in Monday Morning Workload Report.

Subtitle C—Other Benefits Matters

Sec. 221. Modification of pilot program for use of contract physicians for disability examinations.

Sec. 222. Development of procedures to increase cooperation with National Guard Bureau.

Sec. 223. Review of determination of certain service in Philippines during World War II.

Sec. 224. Reports on Department disability medical examinations and prevention of unnecessary medical examinations.

Sec. 225. Sense of Congress on submittal of information relating to claims for disabilities incurred or aggravated by military sexual trauma.

TITLE III—EDUCATION MATTERS

Sec. 301. Retention of entitlement to educational assistance during certain additional periods of active duty.

Sec. 302. Reports on progress of students receiving Post-9/11 Educational Assistance.

Sec. 303. Secretary of Defense report on level of education attained by those who transfer entitlement to Post-9/11 educational assistance.

Sec. 304. Reports on educational levels attained by certain members of the Armed Forces at time of separation from the Armed Forces.

TITLE IV—EMPLOYMENT AND TRANSITION MATTERS

Sec. 401. Required coordination between Directors for Veterans’ Employment and Training with State departments of labor and veterans affairs.

Sec. 402. Report on job fairs attended by one-stop career center employees at which such employees encounter veterans.

Sec. 403. Review of challenges faced by employers seeking to hire veterans and sharing of information among Federal agencies that serve veterans.

Sec. 404. Review of Transition GPS Program Core Curriculum.

Sec. 405. Modification of requirement for provision of preseparation counseling.

TITLE V—VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS MATTERS

Sec. 501. Modification of treatment under contracting goals and preferences of Department of Veterans Affairs for small businesses owned by veterans of small businesses after death of disabled veteran owners.

Sec. 502. Treatment of businesses after deaths of servicemember-owners for purposes of Department of Veterans Affairs contracting goals and preferences.

TITLE VI—BURIAL MATTERS

Sec. 601. Department of Veterans Affairs study on matters relating to burial of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries.

TITLE VII—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 701. Honoring as veterans certain persons who performed service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces.

Sec. 702. Report on Laotian military support of Armed Forces of the United States during Vietnam War.

Sec. 703. Restoration of prior reporting fee multipliers.

TITLE I—HEALTH CARE MATTERS

Subtitle A—Expansion and Improvement of Health Care Benefits

SEC. 101. IMPROVED ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE IMMUNIZATIONS FOR VETERANS.

(a) INCLUSION OF RECOMMENDED ADULT IMMUNIZATIONS AS MEDICAL SERVICES.—

(1) COVERED BENEFIT.—Subparagraph (F) of section 1701(9) of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(F) immunizations against infectious diseases, including each immunization on the recommended adult immunization schedule at the time such immunization is indicated on that schedule.”.

(2) RECOMMENDED ADULT IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULE DEFINED.—Section 1701 of such title is amended by adding after paragraph (9) the following new paragraph:

“(10) The term ‘recommended adult immunization schedule’ means the schedule established (and periodically reviewed and, as appropriate, revised) by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices established by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and delegated to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.”.

(b) INCLUSION OF RECOMMENDED ADULT IMMUNIZATIONS IN ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 1704(1)(A) of such title is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the end; (2) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and