''(c) FUNDING.—Loans under this section shall be made from the special account of the General Post Fund of the Department of Veterans Affairs established for purposes of this section. The amount of such loans outstanding at any time may not exceed $100,000. Amounts received as payment of principal and interest on such loans shall be deposited in that account. The operation of the loan program under this section shall be separately accounted for, and shall be separately stated in the documents accompanying the President's budget for each fiscal year.

''(d) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Loans under this section shall be made on such terms and conditions, including interest, as the Secretary prescribes.

''(e) REPORT.—After the end of the 15-month period beginning on the date the first loan is extended under this section, the Secretary shall issue a report on the Department's experience under the section. The report shall include the following information:

''(1) The default rate on loans extended under this section.

''(2) The manner in which loan payments are collected.

''(3) The number of facilities at which loans have been extended.

''(4) The adequacy of the amount of funds in the special account referred to in subsection (c).''

EVALUATION OF VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION INPATIENT AND OUTPATIENT DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT PROGRAMS

Pub. L. 100–690, title II, § 2501, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4232, directed Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to conduct an evaluation of inpatient and outpatient drug and alcohol treatment programs operated by the Veterans' Administration, such evaluation to include a determination of medical advantages and cost-effectiveness of such programs, taking into consideration rates of readmission and the rate of successful rehabilitation, and authorized appropriations for this purpose for fiscal years 1989, 1990, and 1991.

RATIFICATION FOR LAPSED PERIOD

Section 502(a)(2) of Pub. L. 100–689 ratified actions by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs in providing, during the period beginning Oct. 1, 1988, and ending Nov. 18, 1988, for care and treatment and rehabilitative services under this section.

§ 1720B. Respite care

(a) The Secretary may furnish respite care services to a veteran who is enrolled to receive care under section 1710 of this title.

(b) For the purpose of this section, the term ''respite care services'' means care and services which—

(1) are of limited duration;

(2) are furnished on an intermittent basis to a veteran who is suffering from a chronic illness and who resides primarily at home; and

(3) are furnished for the purpose of helping the veteran to continue residing primarily at home.

(c) In furnishing respite care services, the Secretary may enter into contract arrangements.

(Added Pub. L. 99–576, title II, § 201(a)(1), Oct. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 3254, § 620B; amended Pub. L. 101–237, title II, § 201(a), Dec. 18, 1989, 103 Stat. 2066; renumbered § 1720B and amended Pub. L. 102–83, §§ 4(a)(3), (4), (b)(1), (2)(E), 5(a), (c)(1), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404–406; Pub. L. 102–585, title V, § 502, Nov. 4, 1992, 106 Stat. 4955; Pub. L. 106–117, title I, § 101(e), Nov. 30, 1999, 113 Stat. 1549.)

AMENDMENTS

1999—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 106–117, § 101(e)(1), substituted ''enrolled'' for ''eligible''.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 106–117, § 101(e)(2), in introductory provisions, substituted ''the term 'respite care services' means care and services'' for ''the term 'respite care' means hospital or nursing home care'', in par. (1) substituted ''are'' for ''is'', in par. (2) substituted ''are'' for ''is'' and struck out ''in a Department facility'' after ''furnished'', and in par. (3) substituted ''are'' for ''is''.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 106–117, § 101(e)(3), added subsec. (c).

1992—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 102–585 struck out subsec. (c) which read as follows: ''The authority provided by this section terminates on September 30, 1992.''

1991—Pub. L. 102–83, § 5(a), renumbered section 620B of this title as this section.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 102–83, § 5(c)(1), substituted ''1710'' for ''610''.

Pub. L. 102–83, § 4(b)(1), (2)(E), substituted ''Secretary'' for ''Administrator''.

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 102–83, § 4(a)(3), (4), substituted ''Department'' for ''Veterans' Administration''.

1989—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 101–237 substituted ''September 30, 1992'' for ''September 30, 1989''.

RATIFICATION OF ACTIONS OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DURING TRANSITION PERIODS

Section 604 of Pub. L. 101–237 ratified actions of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in carrying out this section, section 115 of Pub. L. 100–322 [38 U.S.C. 1712 note], section 618 of Pub. L. 100–440 [5 U.S.C. 6302 note], or section 1829 [now 3729] of this title, by contract or otherwise, during the period beginning Dec. 1, 1989, and ending Dec. 18, 1989.

Pub. L. 101–110, § 3(b), Oct. 6, 1989, 103 Stat. 682, ratified actions of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in carrying out this section, section 115 of Pub. L. 100–322 [38 U.S.C. 1712 note], section 618 of Pub. L. 100–440 [5 U.S.C. 6302 note], or section 1829 [now 3729] of this title, by contract or otherwise, during the period beginning Oct. 1, 1989, and ending Oct. 6, 1989.

INTERIM EXTENSION OF RESPITE CARE PROGRAM

Pub. L. 101–110, § 1(a), Oct. 6, 1989, 103 Stat. 682, provided that: ''Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of section 620B [now 1720B] of title 38, United States Code, the authority provided by such section shall terminate on November 30, 1989.''

REPORT

Section 201(b) of Pub. L. 99–576 provided that if the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs furnished respite care under this section, the Administrator was to conduct an evaluation of the health efficacy and cost-effectiveness of furnishing such care and submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives not later than Feb. 1, 1989, a report containing the results of such evaluation and appropriate recommendations.

§ 1720C. Noninstitutional alternatives to nursing home care

(a) The Secretary may furnish medical, rehabilitative, and health-related services in noninstitutional settings for veterans who are eligible under this chapter for, and are in need of, nursing home care. The Secretary shall give priority for participation in such program to veterans who—

(1) are in receipt of, or are in need of, nursing home care primarily for the treatment of a service-connected disability; or

(2) have a service-connected disability rated at 50 percent or more.

(b)(1) Under the program conducted pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary shall (A) furnish appropriate health-related services solely through contracts with appropriate public and