

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 714

AMENDMENTS

In the House of Representatives, U. S.,

November 9, 1997.

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 714) entitled “An Act to extend and improve the Native American Veteran Housing Loan Pilot Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to extend certain authorities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to services for homeless veterans, to extend certain other authorities of the Secretary, and for other purposes.”, do pass with the following

AMENDMENTS:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

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

2 (a) *SHORT TITLE.*—*This Act may be cited as the “Veterans’ Benefits Act of 1997”.*

3
4 (b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—*The table of contents of this*
5 *Act is as follows:*

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.

TITLE I—EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY PROCESS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Sec. 101. Equal employment responsibilities.

Sec. 102. Discrimination complaint adjudication authority.

*Sec. 103. Assessment and review of Department of Veterans Affairs employment
discrimination complaint resolution system.*

TITLE II—EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF AUTHORITIES

Sec. 201. Native American Veteran Housing Loan Program.

Sec. 202. *Treatment and rehabilitation for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans.*

Sec. 203. *Extension of certain authorities relating to homeless veterans.*

Sec. 204. *Annual report on assistance to homeless veterans.*

Sec. 205. *Expansion of authority for enhanced-use leases of Department of Veterans Affairs real property.*

Sec. 206. *Permanent authority to furnish noninstitutional alternatives to nursing home care.*

Sec. 207. *Extension of Health Professional Scholarship Program.*

Sec. 208. *Policy on breast cancer mammography.*

Sec. 209. *Persian Gulf War veterans.*

Sec. 210. *Presidential report on preparations for a national response to medical emergencies arising from the terrorist use of weapons of mass destruction.*

TITLE III—MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION

Sec. 301. *Authorization of major medical facility projects.*

Sec. 302. *Authorization of major medical facility leases.*

Sec. 303. *Authorization of appropriations.*

TITLE IV—TECHNICAL AND CLARIFYING AMENDMENTS

Sec. 401. *Technical amendments.*

Sec. 402. *Clarification of certain health care authorities.*

Sec. 403. *Correction of name of medical center.*

Sec. 404. *Improvement to spina bifida benefits for children of Vietnam veterans.*

1 **SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.**

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

7 **TITLE I—EQUAL EMPLOYMENT** 8 **OPPORTUNITY PROCESS IN** 9 **THE DEPARTMENT OF VETER-** 10 **ANS AFFAIRS**

11 **SEC. 101. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT RESPONSIBILITIES.**

12 *(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Chapter 5 is amended by insert-*
 13 *ing at the end of subchapter I the following new section:*

1 **“§ 516. Equal employment responsibilities**

2 “(a) *The Secretary shall provide that the employment*
3 *discrimination complaint resolution system within the De-*
4 *partment be established and administered so as to encour-*
5 *age timely and fair resolution of concerns and complaints.*
6 *The Secretary shall take steps to ensure that the system is*
7 *administered in an objective, fair, and effective manner and*
8 *in a manner that is perceived by employees and other inter-*
9 *ested parties as being objective, fair, and effective.*

10 “(b) *The Secretary shall provide—*

11 “(1) *that employees responsible for counseling*
12 *functions associated with employment discrimination*
13 *and for receiving, investigating, and processing com-*
14 *plaints of employment discrimination shall be super-*
15 *vised in those functions by, and report to, an Assist-*
16 *ant Secretary or a Deputy Assistant Secretary for*
17 *complaint resolution management; and*

18 “(2) *that employees performing employment dis-*
19 *crimination complaint resolution functions at a facil-*
20 *ity of the Department shall not be subject to the au-*
21 *thority, direction, and control of the Director of the*
22 *facility with respect to those functions.*

23 “(c) *The Secretary shall ensure that all employees of*
24 *the Department receive adequate education and training for*
25 *the purposes of this section and section 319 of this title.*

1 “(d) *The Secretary shall, when appropriate, impose*
2 *disciplinary measures, as authorized by law, in the case*
3 *of employees of the Department who engage in unlawful em-*
4 *ployment discrimination, including retaliation against an*
5 *employee asserting rights under an equal employment op-*
6 *portunity law.*

7 “(e)(1)(A) *Not later than 30 days after the end of each*
8 *calendar quarter, the Assistant Secretary for Human Re-*
9 *sources and Administration shall submit to the Committees*
10 *on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representa-*
11 *tives a report summarizing the employment discrimination*
12 *complaints filed against the individuals referred to in para-*
13 *graph (2) during such quarter.*

14 “(B) *Subparagraph (A) shall apply in the case of com-*
15 *plaints filed against individuals on the basis of such indi-*
16 *viduals’ personal conduct and shall not apply in the case*
17 *of complaints filed solely on the basis of such individuals’*
18 *positions as officials of the Department.*

19 “(2) *Paragraph (1) applies to the following officers*
20 *and employees of the Department:*

21 “(A) *The Secretary.*

22 “(B) *The Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.*

23 “(C) *The Under Secretary for Health and the*
24 *Under Secretary for Benefits.*

1 “(D) *Each Assistant Secretary of Veterans Af-*
2 *fairs and each Deputy Assistant Secretary of Veterans*
3 *Affairs.*

4 “(E) *The Director of the National Cemetery Sys-*
5 *tem.*

6 “(F) *The General Counsel of the Department.*

7 “(G) *The Chairman of the Board of Veterans’*
8 *Appeals.*

9 “(H) *The Chairman of the Board of Contract*
10 *Appeals of the Department.*

11 “(I) *The director and the chief of staff of each*
12 *medical center of the Department.*

13 “(J) *The director of each Veterans Integrated*
14 *Services Network.*

15 “(K) *The director of each regional office of the*
16 *Department.*

17 “(L) *Each program director of the Central Office*
18 *of the Department.*

19 “(3) *Each report under this subsection—*

20 “(A) *may not disclose information which identi-*
21 *fies the individuals filing, or the individuals who are*
22 *the subject of, the complaints concerned or the facili-*
23 *ties at which the discrimination identified in such*
24 *complaints is alleged to have occurred;*

1 “(B) shall summarize such complaints by type
2 and by equal employment opportunity field office
3 area in which filed; and

4 “(C) shall include copies of such complaints,
5 with the information described in subparagraph (A)
6 redacted.

7 “(4) Not later than April 1 each year, the Assistant
8 Secretary shall submit to the committees referred to in
9 paragraph (1)(A) a report on the complaints covered by
10 paragraph (1) during the preceding year, including the
11 number of such complaints filed during that year and the
12 status and resolution of the investigation of such com-
13 plaints.

14 “(f) The Secretary shall ensure that an employee of
15 the Department who seeks counseling relating to employ-
16 ment discrimination may elect to receive such counseling
17 from an employee of the Department who carries out equal
18 employment opportunity counseling functions on a full-
19 time basis rather than from an employee of the Department
20 who carries out such functions on a part-time basis.

21 “(g) The number of employees of the Department whose
22 duties include equal employment opportunity counseling
23 functions as well as other, unrelated functions may not ex-
24 ceed 40 full-time equivalent employees. Any such employee
25 may be assigned equal employment opportunity counseling

1 *functions only at Department facilities in remote geo-*
2 *graphic locations (as determined by the Secretary). The*
3 *Secretary may waive the limitation in the preceding sen-*
4 *tence in specific cases.*

5 “(h) *The provisions of this section shall be imple-*
6 *mented in a manner consistent with procedures applicable*
7 *under regulations prescribed by the Equal Employment Op-*
8 *portunity Commission.*”.

9 (2) *The table of sections at the beginning of such chap-*
10 *ter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section*
11 *515 the following new item:*

 “516. *Equal employment responsibilities.*”.

12 (b) *REPORTS.—(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs*
13 *shall submit to Congress reports on the implementation and*
14 *operation of the equal employment opportunity system*
15 *within the Department of Veterans Affairs. The first such*
16 *report shall be submitted not later than April 1, 1998, and*
17 *subsequent reports shall be submitted not later than Janu-*
18 *ary 1, 1999, and January 1, 2000.*

19 (2) *The first report under paragraph (1) shall set forth*
20 *the actions taken by the Secretary to implement section 516*
21 *of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a),*
22 *and other actions taken by the Secretary in relation to the*
23 *equal employment opportunity system within the Depart-*
24 *ment of Veterans Affairs.*

1 (3) *The subsequent reports under paragraph (1) shall*
2 *set forth, for each equal employment opportunity field office*
3 *of the Department and for the Department as a whole, the*
4 *following:*

5 (A) *Any information to supplement the informa-*
6 *tion submitted in the report under paragraph (2) that*
7 *the Secretary considers appropriate.*

8 (B) *The number of requests for counseling relat-*
9 *ing to employment discrimination received during the*
10 *one-year period ending on the date of the report con-*
11 *cerned.*

12 (C) *The number of employment discrimination*
13 *complaints received during such period.*

14 (D) *The status of each complaint described in*
15 *subparagraph (C), including whether or not the com-*
16 *plaint was resolved and, if resolved, whether the em-*
17 *ployee concerned sought review of the resolution by*
18 *the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or*
19 *by Federal court.*

20 (E) *The number of employment discrimination*
21 *complaints that were settled during such period, in-*
22 *cluding—*

23 (i) *the type of such complaints; and*

24 (ii) *the terms of settlement (including any*
25 *settlement amount) of each such complaint.*

1 (c) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—Section 516 of title 38, United
 2 States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect
 3 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act. Subsection
 4 (e) of that section shall take effect with respect to the first
 5 quarter of calendar year 1998.

6 **SEC. 102. DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT ADJUDICATION AU-**
 7 **THORITY.**

8 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—(1) Chapter 3 is amended by add-
 9 ing at the end the following new section:

10 **“§319. Office of Employment Discrimination Com-**
 11 **plaint Adjudication**

12 “(a)(1) *There is in the Department an Office of Em-*
 13 *ployment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication. There is*
 14 *at the head of the Office a Director.*

15 “(2) *The Director shall be a career appointee in the*
 16 *Senior Executive Service.*

17 “(3) *The Director reports directly to the Secretary or*
 18 *the Deputy Secretary concerning matters within the respon-*
 19 *sibility of the Office.*

20 “(b)(1) *The Director is responsible for making the final*
 21 *agency decision within the Department on the merits of any*
 22 *employment discrimination complaint filed by an em-*
 23 *ployee, or an applicant for employment, with the Depart-*
 24 *ment. The Director shall make such decisions in an impar-*
 25 *tial and objective manner.*

1 “(2) No person may make any *ex parte* communica-
2 tion to the Director or to any employee of the Office with
3 respect to a matter on which the Director has responsibility
4 for making a final agency decision.

5 “(c) Whenever the Director has reason to believe that
6 there has been retaliation against an employee by reason
7 of the employee asserting rights under an equal employment
8 opportunity law, the Director shall report the suspected re-
9 taliatory action directly to the Secretary or Deputy Sec-
10 retary, who shall take appropriate action thereon.

11 “(d)(1) The Office shall employ a sufficient number of
12 attorneys and other personnel as are necessary to carry out
13 the functions of the Office. Attorneys shall be compensated
14 at a level commensurate with attorneys employed by the
15 Office of the General Counsel.

16 “(2) The Secretary shall ensure that the Director is
17 furnished sufficient resources in addition to personnel
18 under paragraph (1) to enable the Director to carry out
19 the functions of the Office in a timely manner.

20 “(3) The Secretary shall ensure that any performance
21 appraisal of the Director of the Office of Employment Dis-
22 crimination Complaint Adjudication or of any employee of
23 the Office does not take into consideration the record of the
24 Director or employee in deciding cases for or against the
25 Department.”.

1 (2) *The table of sections at the beginning of such chap-*
 2 *ter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:*

 “319. *Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication.*”.

3 (b) *REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION.—The Director of*
 4 *the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adju-*
 5 *dication of the Department of Veterans Affairs (established*
 6 *by section 319 of title 38, United States Code, as added*
 7 *by subsection (a)) shall submit to the Secretary of Veterans*
 8 *Affairs and to Congress reports on the implementation and*
 9 *the operation of that office. The first such report shall be*
 10 *submitted not later than April 1, 1998, and subsequent re-*
 11 *ports shall be submitted not later than January 1, 1999,*
 12 *and January 1, 2000.*

13 (c) *EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 319 of title 38, United*
 14 *States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect*
 15 *90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.*

16 **SEC. 103. ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT OF**
 17 **VETERANS AFFAIRS EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMI-**
 18 **NATION COMPLAINT RESOLUTION SYSTEM.**

19 (a) *AGREEMENT FOR ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW.—(1)*
 20 *The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall seek to enter into*
 21 *an agreement with a qualified private entity under which*
 22 *agreement the entity shall carry out the assessment de-*
 23 *scribed in subsection (b) and the review described in sub-*
 24 *section (c).*

1 (2) *The Secretary shall include in the agreement provi-*
2 *sions necessary to ensure that the entity carries out its re-*
3 *sponsibilities under the agreement (including the exercise*
4 *of its judgments concerning the assessment and review) in*
5 *a manner free of influence from any source, including the*
6 *officials and employees of the Department of Veterans Af-*
7 *airs.*

8 (3) *The Secretary may not enter into the agreement*
9 *until 15 days after the date on which the Secretary notifies*
10 *the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and*
11 *House of Representatives of the entity with which the Sec-*
12 *retary proposes to enter into the agreement.*

13 (b) *INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF SYSTEM.—(1) Under the*
14 *agreement under subsection (a), the entity shall conduct an*
15 *assessment of the employment discrimination complaint*
16 *resolution system administered within the Department of*
17 *Veterans Affairs, including the extent to which the system*
18 *meets the objectives set forth in section 516(a) of title 38,*
19 *United States Code, as added by section 101. The assess-*
20 *ment shall include a comprehensive description of the sys-*
21 *tem as of the time of the assessment.*

22 (2) *Under the agreement, the entity shall submit the*
23 *assessment to the committees referred to in subsection (a)(3)*
24 *and to the Secretary not later than June 1, 1998.*

1 (c) *REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATION OF SYSTEM.—(1)*

2 *Under the agreement under subsection (a), the entity shall*
3 *monitor and review the administration by the Secretary of*
4 *the employment discrimination complaint resolution sys-*
5 *tem administered within the Department.*

6 (2) *Under the agreement, the entity shall submit to the*
7 *committees referred to in subsection (a)(3) and to the Sec-*
8 *retary a report on the results of the review under paragraph*
9 *(1) not later than June 1, 1999. The report shall include*
10 *an assessment of the administration of the system, includ-*
11 *ing the extent to which the system meets the objectives re-*
12 *ferred to in subsection (b)(1), and the effectiveness of the*
13 *following:*

14 (A) *Programs to train and maintain a cadre of*
15 *individuals who are competent to investigate claims*
16 *relating to employment discrimination.*

17 (B) *Programs to train and maintain a cadre of*
18 *individuals who are competent to provide counseling*
19 *to individuals who submit such claims.*

20 (C) *Programs to provide education and training*
21 *to Department employees regarding their rights and*
22 *obligations under the equal employment opportunity*
23 *laws.*

24 (D) *Programs to oversee the administration of*
25 *the system.*

1 (E) Programs to evaluate the effectiveness of the
2 system in meeting its objectives.

3 (F) Other programs, procedures, or activities of
4 the Department relating to the equal employment op-
5 portunity laws, including any alternative dispute res-
6 olution procedures and informal dispute resolution
7 and settlement procedures.

8 (G) Any disciplinary measures imposed by the
9 Secretary on employees determined to have violated
10 the equal employment opportunity laws in preventing
11 or deterring violations of such laws by other employ-
12 ees of the Department.

13 **TITLE II—EXTENSION AND**
14 **IMPROVEMENT OF AUTHORITIES**

15 **SEC. 201. NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PRO-**
16 **GRAM.**

17 (a) *EXTENSION OF PILOT PROGRAM.*—Section 3761(c)
18 is amended by striking out “September 30, 1997” and in-
19 serting in lieu thereof “December 31, 2001”.

20 (b) *OUTREACH.*—Section 3762(i) is amended—

21 (1) by inserting “(1)” after “(i)”;

22 (2) by inserting “, in consultation with tribal
23 organizations (including the National Congress of
24 American Indians and the National American Indian
25 Housing Council),” after “The Secretary shall”;

1 (3) *by striking out “tribal organizations and”;*
2 *and*

3 (4) *by adding at the end the following:*

4 “(2) *Activities under the outreach program shall in-*
5 *clude the following:*

6 “(A) *Attending conferences and conventions con-*
7 *ducted by the National Congress of American Indians*
8 *in order to work with the National Congress in pro-*
9 *viding information and training to tribal organiza-*
10 *tions and Native American veterans regarding the*
11 *availability of housing benefits under the pilot pro-*
12 *gram and in assisting such organizations and veter-*
13 *ans in participating in the pilot program.*

14 “(B) *Attending conferences and conventions con-*
15 *ducted by the National American Indian Housing*
16 *Council in order to work with the Housing Council*
17 *in providing information and training to tribal orga-*
18 *nizations and tribal housing entities regarding the*
19 *availability of such benefits.*

20 “(C) *Attending conferences and conventions con-*
21 *ducted by the Department of Hawaiian Homelands*
22 *in order to work with the Department of Hawaiian*
23 *Homelands in providing information and training to*
24 *tribal housing entities in Hawaii regarding the avail-*
25 *ability of such benefits.*

1 “(D) *Producing and disseminating information*
2 *to tribal governments, tribal veterans service organi-*
3 *zations, and tribal organizations regarding the avail-*
4 *ability of such benefits.*

5 “(E) *Assisting tribal organizations and Native*
6 *American veterans in participating in the pilot pro-*
7 *gram.*

8 “(F) *Outstationing loan guarantee specialists in*
9 *tribal facilities on a part-time basis if requested by*
10 *the tribal government.”.*

11 (c) *ANNUAL REPORTS.*—*Section 3762 is further*
12 *amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:*

13 “(j) *Not later than February 1 of each year through*
14 *2002, the Secretary shall transmit to the Committees on*
15 *Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representa-*
16 *tives a report relating to the implementation of the pilot*
17 *program under this subchapter during the fiscal year pre-*
18 *ceding the date of the report. Each such report shall include*
19 *the following:*

20 “(1) *The Secretary’s exercise during such fiscal*
21 *year of the authority provided under subsection*
22 *(c)(1)(B) to make loans exceeding the maximum loan*
23 *amount.*

1 “(2) *The appraisals performed for the Secretary*
2 *during such fiscal year under the authority of sub-*
3 *section (d)(2), including a description of—*

4 “(A) *the manner in which such appraisals*
5 *were performed;*

6 “(B) *the qualifications of the appraisers*
7 *who performed such appraisals; and*

8 “(C) *the actions taken by the Secretary with*
9 *respect to such appraisals to protect the interests*
10 *of veterans and the United States.*

11 “(3) *The outreach activities undertaken under*
12 *subsection (i) during such fiscal year, including—*

13 “(A) *a description of such activities on a re-*
14 *gion-by-region basis; and*

15 “(B) *an assessment of the effectiveness of*
16 *such activities in encouraging the participation*
17 *of Native American veterans in the pilot pro-*
18 *gram.*

19 “(4) *The pool of Native American veterans who*
20 *are eligible for participation in the pilot program, in-*
21 *cluding—*

22 “(A) *a description and analysis of the pool,*
23 *including income demographics;*

24 “(B) *a description and assessment of the*
25 *impediments, if any, to full participation in the*

1 *pilot program of the Native American veterans*
 2 *in the pool; and*

3 “(C) *the impact of low-cost housing pro-*
 4 *grams operated by the Department of Housing*
 5 *and Urban Development and other Federal or*
 6 *State agencies on the demand for direct loans*
 7 *under this section.*

8 “(5) *The Secretary’s recommendations, if any,*
 9 *for additional legislation regarding the pilot pro-*
 10 *gram.”.*

11 **SEC. 202. TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION FOR SERI-**
 12 **OUSLY MENTALLY ILL AND HOMELESS VET-**
 13 **ERANS.**

14 (a) *CODIFICATION AND REVISION OF PROGRAMS.—*
 15 *Chapter 17 is amended by adding at the end the following*
 16 *new subchapter:*

17 “*SUBCHAPTER VII—TREATMENT AND REHABILI-*
 18 *TATION FOR SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL AND*
 19 *HOMELESS VETERANS*

20 “**§ 1771. General treatment**

21 “(a) *In providing care and services under section 1710*
 22 *of this title to veterans suffering from serious mental illness,*
 23 *including veterans who are homeless, the Secretary may*
 24 *provide (directly or in conjunction with a governmental or*
 25 *other entity)—*

1 “(1) outreach services;

2 “(2) care, treatment, and rehabilitative services
3 (directly or by contract in community-based treat-
4 ment facilities, including halfway houses); and

5 “(3) therapeutic transitional housing assistance
6 under section 1772 of this title, in conjunction with
7 work therapy under subsection (a) or (b) of section
8 1718 of this title and outpatient care.

9 “(b) The authority of the Secretary under subsection
10 (a) expires on December 31, 2001.

11 **“§ 1772. Therapeutic housing**

12 “(a) The Secretary, in connection with the conduct of
13 compensated work therapy programs, may operate resi-
14 dences and facilities as therapeutic housing.

15 “(b) The Secretary may use such procurement proce-
16 dures for the purchase, lease, or other acquisition of residen-
17 tial housing for purposes of this section as the Secretary
18 considers appropriate to expedite the opening and operation
19 of transitional housing and to protect the interests of the
20 United States.

21 “(c) A residence or other facility may be operated as
22 transitional housing for veterans described in paragraphs
23 (1) and (2) of section 1710(a) of this title under the follow-
24 ing conditions:

1 “(1) Only veterans described in those paragraphs
2 and a house manager may reside in the residence or
3 facility.

4 “(2) Each resident, other than the house man-
5 ager, shall be required to make payments that con-
6 tribute to covering the expenses of board and the oper-
7 ational costs of the residence or facility for the period
8 of residence in such housing.

9 “(3) In order to foster the therapeutic and reha-
10 bilitative objectives of such housing (A) residents shall
11 be prohibited from using alcohol or any controlled
12 substance or item, (B) any resident violating that
13 prohibition may be expelled from the residence or fa-
14 cility, and (C) each resident shall agree to undergo
15 drug testing or such other measures as the Secretary
16 shall prescribe to ensure compliance with that prohi-
17 bition.

18 “(4) In the establishment and operation of hous-
19 ing under this section, the Secretary shall consult
20 with appropriate representatives of the community in
21 which the housing is established and shall comply
22 with zoning requirements, building permit require-
23 ments, and other similar requirements applicable to
24 other real property used for similar purposes in the
25 community.

1 “(5) *The residence or facility shall meet State*
2 *and community fire and safety requirements applica-*
3 *ble to other real property used for similar purposes in*
4 *the community in which the transitional housing is*
5 *located, but fire and safety requirements applicable to*
6 *buildings of the Federal Government shall not apply*
7 *to such property.*

8 “(d) *The Secretary shall prescribe the qualifications*
9 *for house managers for transitional housing units operated*
10 *under this section. The Secretary may provide for free room*
11 *and subsistence for a house manager in addition to, or in-*
12 *stead of payment of, a fee for the services provided by the*
13 *manager.*

14 “(e)(1) *The Secretary may operate as transitional*
15 *housing under this section—*

16 “(A) *any suitable residential property acquired*
17 *by the Secretary as the result of a default on a loan*
18 *made, guaranteed, or insured under chapter 37 of this*
19 *title;*

20 “(B) *any suitable space in a facility under the*
21 *jurisdiction of the Secretary that is no longer being*
22 *used (i) to provide acute hospital care, or (ii) as*
23 *housing for medical center employees; and*

24 “(C) *any other suitable residential property pur-*
25 *chased, leased, or otherwise acquired by the Secretary.*

1 “(2) *In the case of any property referred to in para-*
2 *graph (1)(A), the Secretary shall—*

3 “(A) *transfer administrative jurisdiction over*
4 *such property within the Department from the Veter-*
5 *ans Benefits Administration to the Veterans Health*
6 *Administration; and*

7 “(B) *transfer from the General Post Fund to the*
8 *Loan Guaranty Revolving Fund under chapter 37 of*
9 *this title an amount (not to exceed the amount the*
10 *Secretary paid for the property) representing the*
11 *amount the Secretary considers could be obtained by*
12 *sale of such property to a nonprofit organization or*
13 *a State for use as a shelter for homeless veterans.*

14 “(3) *In the case of any residential property obtained*
15 *by the Secretary from the Department of Housing and*
16 *Urban Development under this section, the amount paid by*
17 *the Secretary to that Department for that property may*
18 *not exceed the amount that the Secretary of Housing and*
19 *Urban Development would charge for the sale of that prop-*
20 *erty to a nonprofit organization or a State for use as a*
21 *shelter for homeless persons. Funds for such charge shall be*
22 *derived from the General Post Fund.*

23 “(f) *The Secretary shall prescribe—*

1 “(1) a procedure for establishing reasonable pay-
2 ment rates for persons residing in transitional hous-
3 ing; and

4 “(2) appropriate limits on the period for which
5 such persons may reside in transitional housing.

6 “(g) The Secretary may dispose of any property ac-
7 quired for the purpose of this section. The proceeds of any
8 such disposal shall be credited to the General Post Fund.

9 “(h) Funds received by the Department under this sec-
10 tion shall be deposited in the General Post Fund. The Sec-
11 retary may distribute out of the fund such amounts as nec-
12 essary for the acquisition, management, maintenance, and
13 disposition of real property for the purpose of carrying out
14 such program. The Secretary shall manage the operation
15 of this section so as to ensure that expenditures under this
16 subsection for any fiscal year shall not exceed by more than
17 \$500,000 proceeds credited to the General Post Fund under
18 this section. The operation of the program and funds re-
19 ceived shall be separately accounted for, and shall be stated
20 in the documents accompanying the President’s budget for
21 each fiscal year.

22 **“§ 1773. Additional services at certain locations**

23 “(a) Subject to the availability of appropriations, the
24 Secretary shall operate a program under this section to ex-

1 *pand and improve the provision of benefits and services by*
2 *the Department to homeless veterans.*

3 “(b) *The program shall include the establishment of*
4 *not fewer than eight programs (in addition to any existing*
5 *programs providing similar services) at sites under the ju-*
6 *risdiction of the Secretary to be centers for the provision*
7 *of comprehensive services to homeless veterans. The services*
8 *to be provided at each site shall include a comprehensive*
9 *and coordinated array of those specialized services which*
10 *may be provided under existing law.*

11 “(c) *The program shall include the services of such em-*
12 *ployees of the Veterans Benefits Administration as the Sec-*
13 *retary determines appropriate at sites under the jurisdic-*
14 *tion of the Secretary at which services are provided to home-*
15 *less veterans.*

16 “(d) *The program under this section shall terminate*
17 *on December 31, 2001.*

18 **“§ 1774. Coordination with other agencies and organi-**
19 **zations**

20 “(a) *In assisting homeless veterans, the Secretary shall*
21 *coordinate with, and may provide services authorized under*
22 *this title in conjunction with, State and local governments,*
23 *other appropriate departments and agencies of the Federal*
24 *Government, and nongovernmental organizations.*

1 “(b)(1) *The Secretary shall require the director of each*
2 *medical center or the director of each regional benefits office*
3 *to make an assessment of the needs of homeless veterans liv-*
4 *ing within the area served by the medical center or regional*
5 *office, as the case may be.*

6 “(2) *Each such assessment shall be made in coordina-*
7 *tion with representatives of State and local governments,*
8 *other appropriate departments and agencies of the Federal*
9 *Government, and nongovernmental organizations that have*
10 *experience working with homeless persons in that area.*

11 “(3) *Each such assessment shall identify the needs of*
12 *homeless veterans with respect to the following:*

13 “(A) *Health care.*

14 “(B) *Education and training.*

15 “(C) *Employment.*

16 “(D) *Shelter.*

17 “(E) *Counseling.*

18 “(F) *Outreach services.*

19 “(4) *Each assessment shall also indicate the extent to*
20 *which the needs referred to in paragraph (3) are being met*
21 *adequately by the programs of the Department, of other de-*
22 *partments and agencies of the Federal Government, of State*
23 *and local governments, and of nongovernmental organiza-*
24 *tions.*

1 “(5) *Each assessment shall be carried out in accord-*
2 *ance with uniform procedures and guidelines prescribed by*
3 *the Secretary.*

4 “(c) *In furtherance of subsection (a), the Secretary*
5 *shall require the director of each medical center and the*
6 *director of each regional benefits office, in coordination with*
7 *representatives of State and local governments, other Fed-*
8 *eral officials, and nongovernmental organizations that have*
9 *experience working with homeless persons in the areas*
10 *served by such facility or office, to—*

11 “(1) *develop a list of all public and private pro-*
12 *grams that provide assistance to homeless persons or*
13 *homeless veterans in the area concerned, together with*
14 *a description of the services offered by those programs;*

15 “(2) *seek to encourage the development by the*
16 *representatives of such entities, in coordination with*
17 *the director, of a plan to coordinate among such pub-*
18 *lic and private programs the provision of services to*
19 *homeless veterans;*

20 “(3) *take appropriate action to meet, to the max-*
21 *imum extent practicable through existing programs*
22 *and available resources, the needs of homeless veterans*
23 *that are identified in the assessment conducted under*
24 *subsection (b); and*

1 “(4) attempt to inform homeless veterans whose
2 needs the director cannot meet under paragraph (3)
3 of the services available to such veterans within the
4 area served by such center or office.”.

5 (b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.*—(1) Section 1720A is
6 amended—

7 (A) by striking out subsections (a), (e), (f), and
8 (g); and

9 (B) by redesignating subsections (b), (c), and (d)
10 as subsections (a), (b), and (c), respectively.

11 (2) The heading of such section is amended to read
12 as follows:

13 “**§1720A. Treatment and rehabilitative services for**
14 **persons with drug or alcohol depend-**
15 **ency”.**

16 (c) *CONFORMING REPEALS.*—The following provisions
17 are repealed:

18 (1) Section 7 of Public Law 102–54 (38 U.S.C.
19 1718 note).

20 (2) Section 107 of the Veterans’ Medical Pro-
21 grams Amendments of 1992 (38 U.S.C. 527 note).

22 (3) Section 2 of the Homeless Veterans Com-
23 prehensive Service Programs Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C.
24 7721 note).

1 (4) *Section 115 of the Veterans' Benefits and*
 2 *Services Act of 1988 (38 U.S.C. 1712 note).*

3 (d) *CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections at*
 4 *the beginning of chapter 17 is amended—*

5 (1) *by striking out the item relating to section*
 6 *1720A and inserting in lieu thereof the following:*

 “1720A. *Treatment and rehabilitative services for persons with drug or alcohol de-*
 pendency.”; and

7 (2) *by adding at the end the following:*

 “SUBCHAPTER VII—TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION FOR SERIOUSLY
 MENTALLY ILL AND HOMELESS VETERANS

 “1771. *General treatment.*

 “1772. *Therapeutic housing.*

 “1773. *Additional services at certain locations.*

 “1774. *Coordination with other agencies and organizations.*”.

8 **SEC. 203. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN AUTHORITIES RELATING**
 9 **TO HOMELESS VETERANS.**

10 (a) *AGREEMENTS FOR HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR*
 11 *HOMELESS VETERANS.—Section 3735(c) is amended by*
 12 *striking out “December 31, 1997” and inserting in lieu*
 13 *thereof “December 31, 1999”.*

14 (b) *EXTENSION OF HOMELESS VETERANS COM-*
 15 *PREHENSIVE SERVICE GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 3(a)(2)*
 16 *of the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Service Programs*
 17 *Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C. 7721 note) is amended by striking*
 18 *out “September 30, 1997” and inserting in lieu thereof*
 19 *“September 30, 1999”.*

1 (c) *HOMELESS VETERANS' REINTEGRATION*
 2 *PROJECTS.—The Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assist-*
 3 *ance Act is amended as follows:*

4 (1) *Section 738(e)(1) (42 U.S.C. 11448(e)(1)) is*
 5 *amended by adding at the end the following new sub-*
 6 *paragraph:*

7 “(G) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 1999.”.

8 (2) *Section 741 (42 U.S.C. 11450) is amended*
 9 *by striking out “December 31, 1997” and inserting in*
 10 *lieu thereof “December 31, 1999”.*

11 **SEC. 204. ANNUAL REPORT ON ASSISTANCE TO HOMELESS**
 12 **VETERANS.**

13 *Section 1001 of the Veterans' Benefits Improvements*
 14 *Act of 1994 (38 U.S.C. 7721 note) is amended—*

15 (1) *in subsection (a)(2)—*

16 (A) *by striking out “and” at the end of sub-*
 17 *paragraph (B);*

18 (B) *by striking out the period at the end of*
 19 *subparagraph (C) and inserting in lieu thereof “;*
 20 *and”;* and

21 (C) *by adding at the end the following new*
 22 *subparagraphs:*

23 “(D) *evaluate the effectiveness of the programs of*
 24 *the Department (including residential work-therapy*
 25 *programs, programs combining outreach, community-*

1 *based residential treatment, and case-management,*
 2 *and contract care programs for alcohol and drug-de-*
 3 *pendence or abuse disabilities) in providing assist-*
 4 *ance to homeless veterans; and*

5 “(E) *evaluate the effectiveness of programs estab-*
 6 *lished by recipients of grants under section 3 of the*
 7 *Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Service Programs*
 8 *Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C. 7721 note), and describe the*
 9 *experience of such recipients in applying for and re-*
 10 *ceiving grants from the Secretary of Housing and*
 11 *Urban Development to serve primarily homeless per-*
 12 *sons who are veterans.”; and*

13 (2) *by striking out subsection (b).*

14 **SEC. 205. EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY FOR ENHANCED-USE**
 15 **LEASES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
 16 **FAIRS REAL PROPERTY.**

17 (a) *FOUR-YEAR EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.*—Section
 18 8169 is amended by striking out “December 31, 1997” and
 19 inserting in lieu thereof “December 31, 2001”.

20 (b) *REPEAL OF LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF AGREE-*
 21 *MENTS.*—(1) *Section 8168 is repealed.*

22 (2) *The table of sections at the beginning of chapter*
 23 81 is amended by striking out the item relating to section
 24 8168.

1 **SEC. 206. PERMANENT AUTHORITY TO FURNISH NON-**
 2 **INSTITUTIONAL ALTERNATIVES TO NURSING**
 3 **HOME CARE.**

4 (a) *PERMANENT AUTHORITY.*—Subsection (a) of sec-
 5 tion 1720C is amended by striking out “During” and all
 6 that follows through “furnishing of” and inserting in lieu
 7 thereof “The Secretary may furnish”.

8 (b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.*—(1) Subsections
 9 (b)(1) and (d) of such section are amended by striking out
 10 “pilot”.

11 (2) The heading for such section is amended to read
 12 as follows:

13 **“§1720C. Noninstitutional alternatives to nursing**
 14 **home care”.**

15 (3) The item relating to such section in the table of
 16 sections at the beginning of chapter 17 is amended to read
 17 as follows:

“1720C. Noninstitutional alternatives to nursing home care.”.

18 **SEC. 207. EXTENSION OF HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SCHOL-**
 19 **ARSHIP PROGRAM.**

20 (a) *EXTENSION.*—Section 7618 is amended by striking
 21 out “December 31, 1997” and inserting in lieu thereof “De-
 22 cember 31, 1998”.

23 (b) *SUBMISSION OF OVERDUE REPORT.*—The Sec-
 24 retary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress not later
 25 than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act

1 *the report evaluating the operation of the health profes-*
 2 *sional scholarship program required to be submitted not*
 3 *later than March 31, 1997, under section 202(b) of Public*
 4 *Law 104–110 (110 Stat. 770).*

5 **SEC. 208. POLICY ON BREAST CANCER MAMMOGRAPHY.**

6 *(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Subchapter II of chapter 73 is*
 7 *amended by adding at the end the following new section:*

8 **“§ 7322. Breast cancer mammography policy**

9 *“(a) The Under Secretary for Health shall develop a*
 10 *national policy for the Veterans Health Administration on*
 11 *mammography screening for veterans.*

12 *“(b) The policy developed under subsection (a) shall—*

13 *“(1) specify standards of mammography screen-*
 14 *ing;*

15 *“(2) provide recommendations with respect to*
 16 *screening, and the frequency of screening, for—*

17 *“(A) women veterans who are over the age*
 18 *of 39; and*

19 *“(B) veterans, without regard to age, who*
 20 *have clinical symptoms, risk factors, or family*
 21 *history of breast cancer; and*

22 *“(3) provide for clinician discretion.”.*

23 *(2) The table of sections at the beginning of such chap-*
 24 *ter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section*
 25 *7321 the following new item:*

“7322. Breast cancer mammography policy.”.

1 (b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—*The Secretary of Veterans Af-*
2 *fairs shall develop the national policy on mammography*
3 *screening required by section 7322 of title 38, United States*
4 *Code, as added by subsection (a), and shall furnish such*
5 *policy in a report to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs*
6 *of the Senate and House of Representatives, not later than*
7 *60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act. Such*
8 *policy shall not take effect before the expiration of 30 days*
9 *after the date of its submission to those committees.*

10 (c) *SENSE OF CONGRESS.*—*It is the sense of Congress*
11 *that the policy developed under section 7322 of title 38,*
12 *United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall be*
13 *in accordance with the guidelines endorsed by the Secretary*
14 *of Health and Human Services and the Director of the Na-*
15 *tional Institutes of Health.*

16 **SEC. 209. PERSIAN GULF WAR VETERANS.**

17 (a) *CRITERIA FOR PRIORITY HEALTH CARE.*—(1)
18 *Subsection (a)(2)(F) of section 1710 is amended by striking*
19 *out “environmental hazard” and inserting in lieu thereof*
20 *“other conditions”.*

21 (2) *Subsection (e)(1)(C) of such section is amended—*
22 (A) *by striking out “the Secretary finds may*
23 *have been exposed while serving” and inserting in*
24 *lieu thereof “served”;*

1 (B) by striking out “to a toxic substance or envi-
2 ronmental hazard”; and

3 (C) by striking out “exposure” and inserting in
4 lieu thereof “service”.

5 (3) Subsection (e)(2)(B) of such section is amended by
6 striking out “an exposure” and inserting in lieu thereof
7 “the service”.

8 (b) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS FOR TREATMENT OF
9 PERSIAN GULF ILLNESS.—(1) The Secretary of Veterans
10 Affairs shall carry out a program of demonstration projects
11 to test new approaches to treating, and improving the satis-
12 faction with such treatment of, Persian Gulf veterans who
13 suffer from undiagnosed and ill-defined disabilities. The
14 program shall be established not later than July 1, 1998,
15 and shall be carried out at up to 10 geographically dis-
16 persed medical centers of the Department of Veterans Af-
17 fairs.

18 (2) At least one of each of the following models shall
19 be used at no less than two of the demonstration projects:

20 (A) A specialized clinic which serves Persian
21 Gulf veterans.

22 (B) Multidisciplinary treatment aimed at man-
23 aging symptoms.

24 (C) Use of case managers.

1 (3) *A demonstration project under this subsection may*
2 *be undertaken in conjunction with another funding entity,*
3 *including agreements under section 8111 of title 38, United*
4 *States Code.*

5 (4) *The Secretary shall make available from appro-*
6 *priated funds (which have been retained for contingent*
7 *funding) \$5,000,000 to carry out the demonstrations*
8 *projects.*

9 (5) *The Secretary may not approve a medical center*
10 *as a location for a demonstration project under this sub-*
11 *section unless a peer review panel has determined that the*
12 *proposal submitted by that medical center is among those*
13 *proposals that have met the highest competitive standards*
14 *of clinical merit and the Secretary has determined that the*
15 *facility has the ability to—*

16 (A) *attract the participation of clinicians of out-*
17 *standing caliber and innovation to the project; and*

18 (B) *effectively evaluate the activities of the*
19 *project.*

20 (6) *In determining which medical centers to select as*
21 *locations for demonstration projects under this subsection,*
22 *the Secretary shall give special priority to medical centers*
23 *that have demonstrated a capability to compete successfully*
24 *for extramural funding support for research into the effec-*

1 *tiveness and cost-effectiveness of the care provided under the*
2 *demonstration project.*

3 **SEC. 210. PRESIDENTIAL REPORT ON PREPARATIONS FOR A**
4 **NATIONAL RESPONSE TO MEDICAL EMER-**
5 **GENCIES ARISING FROM THE TERRORIST USE**
6 **OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.**

7 *(a) REPORT.—(1) Not later than March 1, 1998, the*
8 *President shall submit to Congress a report on the plans,*
9 *preparations, and capability of the Federal Government*
10 *and State and local governments for a national response*
11 *to medical emergencies arising from the terrorist use of*
12 *weapons of mass destruction. The report shall be submitted*
13 *in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.*

14 *(2) The report should be prepared in consultation with*
15 *the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Health and*
16 *Human Services, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Di-*
17 *rector of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and*
18 *the head of any other department or agency of the Federal*
19 *Government that may be involved in responding to such*
20 *emergencies. The President shall designate a lead agency*
21 *for purposes of the preparation of the report.*

22 *(b) CONTENTS.—The report shall include the following:*

23 *(1) A description of the steps taken by the Fed-*
24 *eral Government to plan and prepare for a national*

1 *response to medical emergencies arising from the ter-*
2 *rorist use of weapons of mass destruction.*

3 (2) *A description of the laws and agreements*
4 *governing the responsibilities of the various depart-*
5 *ments and agencies of the Federal Government, and*
6 *of State and local governments, for the response to*
7 *such emergencies, and an assessment of the inter-*
8 *relationship of such responsibilities under such laws*
9 *and agreements.*

10 (3) *Recommendations, if any, for the simplifica-*
11 *tion or improvement of such responsibilities.*

12 (4) *An assessment of the current level of pre-*
13 *paredness for such response of all departments and*
14 *agencies of the Federal Government and State and*
15 *local governments that are responsible for such re-*
16 *sponse.*

17 (5) *A current inventory of the existing medical*
18 *assets from all sources which can be made available*
19 *for such response.*

20 (6) *Recommendations, if any, for the improved*
21 *or enhanced use of the resources of the Federal Gov-*
22 *ernment and State and local governments for such re-*
23 *sponse.*

1 (7) *The name of the official or office of the Fed-*
2 *eral Government designated to coordinate the response*
3 *of the Federal Government to such emergencies.*

4 (8) *A description of the lines of authority be-*
5 *tween the departments and agencies of the Federal*
6 *Government to be involved in the response of the Fed-*
7 *eral Government to such emergencies.*

8 (9) *A description of the roles of each department*
9 *and agency of the Federal Government to be involved*
10 *in the preparations for, and implementation of, the*
11 *response of the Federal Government to such emer-*
12 *gencies.*

13 (10) *The estimated costs of each department and*
14 *agency of the Federal Government to prepare for and*
15 *carry out its role as described under paragraph (9).*

16 (11) *A description of the steps, if any, being*
17 *taken to create a funding mechanism for the response*
18 *of the Federal Government to such emergencies.*

1 **TITLE III—MAJOR MEDICAL FA-**
2 **CILITY PROJECTS CONSTRUC-**
3 **TION AUTHORIZATION**

4 **SEC. 301. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY**
5 **PROJECTS.**

6 *The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the*
7 *following major medical facility projects, with each project*
8 *to be carried out in the amount specified for that project:*

9 (1) *Seismic corrections at the Department of Vet-*
10 *erans Affairs medical center in Memphis, Tennessee,*
11 *in an amount not to exceed \$34,600,000.*

12 (2) *Seismic corrections and clinical and other*
13 *improvements to the McClellan Hospital at Mather*
14 *Field, Sacramento, California, in an amount not to*
15 *exceed \$48,000,000, to be derived only from funds ap-*
16 *propriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fis-*
17 *cal year before fiscal year 1998 that remain available*
18 *for obligation.*

19 (3) *Outpatient improvements at Mare Island,*
20 *Vallejo, California, and Martinez, California, in a*
21 *total amount not to exceed \$7,000,000, to be derived*
22 *only from funds appropriated for Construction, Major*
23 *Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 1998 that*
24 *remain available for obligation.*

1 **SEC. 302. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY**
2 **LEASES.**

3 *The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into leases*
4 *for medical facilities as follows:*

5 (1) *Lease of an information management field*
6 *office, Birmingham, Alabama, in an amount not to*
7 *exceed \$595,000.*

8 (2) *Lease of a satellite outpatient clinic, Jack-*
9 *sonville, Florida, in an amount not to exceed*
10 *\$3,095,000.*

11 (3) *Lease of a satellite outpatient clinic, Boston,*
12 *Massachusetts, in an amount not to exceed*
13 *\$5,215,000.*

14 (4) *Lease of a satellite outpatient clinic, Canton,*
15 *Ohio, in an amount not to exceed \$2,115,000.*

16 (5) *Lease of a satellite outpatient clinic, Port-*
17 *land, Oregon, in an amount not to exceed \$1,919,000.*

18 (6) *Lease of a satellite outpatient clinic, Tulsa,*
19 *Oklahoma, in an amount not to exceed \$2,112,000.*

20 (7) *Lease of an information resources manage-*
21 *ment field office, Salt Lake City, in an amount not*
22 *to exceed \$652,000.*

23 **SEC. 303. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

24 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*There are authorized to be appro-*
25 *priated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year*
26 *1998—*

1 (1) *for the Construction, Major Projects, account,*
 2 *\$34,600,000 for the project authorized in section*
 3 *301(1); and*

4 (2) *for the Medical Care account, \$15,703,000 for*
 5 *the leases authorized in section 302.*

6 (b) *LIMITATION.—The projects authorized in section*
 7 *301 may only be carried out using—*

8 (1) *funds appropriated for fiscal year 1998 pur-*
 9 *suant to the authorization of appropriations in sub-*
 10 *section (a);*

11 (2) *funds appropriated for Construction, Major*
 12 *Projects for a fiscal year before fiscal year 1998 that*
 13 *remain available for obligation; and*

14 (3) *funds appropriated for Construction, Major*
 15 *Projects for fiscal year 1998 for a category of activity*
 16 *not specific to a project.*

17 **TITLE IV—TECHNICAL AND**
 18 **CLARIFYING AMENDMENTS**

19 **SEC. 401. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**

20 (a) *PLOT ALLOWANCE FOR DEATHS IN DEPARTMENT*
 21 *FACILITIES.—Section 2303(a)(2)(A) is amended by striking*
 22 *out “a Department facility (as defined in section 1701(4)*
 23 *of this title)” and inserting in lieu thereof “a facility of*
 24 *the Department (as defined in section 1701(3) of this title)”.*

1 (b) *EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE FOR CER-*
 2 *TAIN INDIVIDUALS PURSUING COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS.*—
 3 *Section 3015(e)(1) is amended—*

4 (1) *by striking out “(1) Subject to paragraph*
 5 *(2)” and inserting in lieu thereof “(1)(A) Except as*
 6 *provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph and*
 7 *subject to paragraph (2)”;* and

8 (2) *by adding at the end the following:*

9 “*(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) of this para-*
 10 *graph, in the case of an individual described in that sub-*
 11 *paragraph who is pursuing a cooperative program on or*
 12 *after October 9, 1996, the rate of the basic educational as-*
 13 *sistance allowance applicable to such individual under this*
 14 *chapter shall be increased by the amount equal to one-half*
 15 *of the educational assistance allowance that would be appli-*
 16 *cable to such individual for pursuit of full-time institu-*
 17 *tional training under chapter 34 (as of the time the assist-*
 18 *ance under this chapter is provided and based on the rates*
 19 *in effect on December 31, 1989) if such chapter were in ef-*
 20 *fect.”.*

21 (c) *ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN VEAP PARTICIPANTS TO*
 22 *ENROLL IN MONTGOMERY GI BILL.*—*Section 3018C(a) is*
 23 *amended—*

24 (1) *in paragraph (1), by striking out “the date*
 25 *of the enactment of the Veterans’ Benefits Improve-*

1 *ments Act of 1996” and inserting in lieu thereof “Oc-*
2 *tober 9, 1996,”;*

3 *(2) in paragraph (4), by striking out “during*
4 *the one-year period specified” and inserting in lieu*
5 *thereof “after the date on which the individual makes*
6 *the election described”;* and

7 *(3) in paragraph (5), by striking out “the date*
8 *of the enactment of the Veterans’ Benefits Improve-*
9 *ments Act of 1996” and inserting in lieu thereof “Oc-*
10 *tober 9, 1996”.*

11 *(d) ENROLLMENT IN OPEN CIRCUIT TELEVISION*
12 *COURSES.—Section 3680A(a)(4) is amended by inserting*
13 *“(including open circuit television)” after “independent*
14 *study program” the second place it appears.*

15 *(e) ENROLLMENT IN CERTAIN COURSES.—Section*
16 *3680A(g) is amended by striking out “subsections (e) and*
17 *(f)” and inserting in lieu thereof “subsections (e) and*
18 *(f)(1)”.*

19 *(f) CERTAIN BENEFITS FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES.—*
20 *Section 5310(b)(2) is amended by striking out “under this*
21 *paragraph” in the first sentence and inserting in lieu there-*
22 *of “under paragraph (1)”.*

1 **SEC. 402. CLARIFICATION OF CERTAIN HEALTH CARE AU-**
2 **THORITIES.**

3 (a) *ELIGIBILITY FOR HOSPITAL CARE AND MEDICAL*
4 *SERVICES.*—Section 1710(a)(2)(B) is amended by striking
5 out “compensable”.

6 (b) *HOME HEALTH SERVICES.*—Section 1717(a) is
7 amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking out “veteran’s
9 disability” and inserting in lieu thereof “veteran”;
10 and

11 (2) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking out “section
12 1710(a)(2)” and inserting in lieu thereof “section
13 1710(a)”.

14 (c) *AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER VETERANS RECEIVING*
15 *OUTPATIENT CARE TO NON-DEPARTMENT NURSING*
16 *HOMES.*—Section 1720(a)(1)(A)(i) is amended by striking
17 out “hospital care, nursing home care, or domiciliary care”
18 and inserting in lieu thereof “care”.

19 (d) *ACQUISITION OF COMMERCIAL HEALTH CARE RE-*
20 *SOURCES.*—Section 8153(a)(3)(A) is amended by inserting
21 “(including any Executive order, circular, or other admin-
22 istrative policy)” after “law or regulation”.

23 (e) *COMPETITION IN PROCUREMENT OF COMMERCIAL*
24 *HEALTH CARE RESOURCES.*—Section 8153(a)(3)(B)(ii) is
25 amended in the second sentence by inserting “, as appro-
26 priate,” after “all responsible sources”.

1 **SEC. 403. CORRECTION OF NAME OF MEDICAL CENTER.**

2 *The facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs in*
 3 *Columbia, South Carolina, known as the Wm. Jennings*
 4 *Bryan Dorn Veterans' Hospital shall hereafter be known*
 5 *and designated as the "Wm. Jennings Bryan Dorn Depart-*
 6 *ment of Veterans Affairs Medical Center". Any reference to*
 7 *that facility in any law, regulation, document, map, record,*
 8 *or other paper of the United States shall be deemed to be*
 9 *a reference to the Wm. Jennings Bryan Dorn Department*
 10 *of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.*

11 **SEC. 404. IMPROVEMENT TO SPINA BIFIDA BENEFITS FOR**
 12 **CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS.**

13 *(a) DEFINITIONS.—The text of section 1801 is amend-*
 14 *ed to read as follows:*

15 *"For the purposes of this chapter—*

16 *"(1) The term 'child', with respect to a Vietnam*
 17 *veteran, means a natural child of a Vietnam veteran,*
 18 *regardless of age or marital status, who was conceived*
 19 *after the date on which the Vietnam veteran first en-*
 20 *tered the Republic of Vietnam during the period be-*
 21 *ginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7,*
 22 *1975.*

23 *"(2) The term 'Vietnam veteran' means an indi-*
 24 *vidual who performed active military, naval, or air*
 25 *service in the Republic of Vietnam during the period*
 26 *beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May*

1 *ginning of the program as of the date specified in*
2 *that subsection.”;*

3 *(2) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking out “in-*
4 *stitution of higher education” and inserting in lieu*
5 *thereof “institution of higher learning”; and*

6 *(3) by adding at the end of subsection (d) the fol-*
7 *lowing new paragraph:*

8 *“(3) A vocational training program under this section*
9 *may begin on the child’s 18th birthday, or on the successful*
10 *completion of the child’s secondary schooling, whichever*
11 *first occurs, except that, if the child is above the age of com-*
12 *pulsory school attendance under applicable State law and*
13 *the Secretary determines that the child’s best interests will*
14 *be served thereby, the vocational training program may*
15 *begin before the child’s 18th birthday.”.*

16 *(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this*
17 *section shall take effect as of October 1, 1997.*

Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to revise, extend, and improve programs for veterans.”.

Attest:

Clerk.