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House of Representatives

VETERANS' BENEFITS ACT OF 1997 (Continued)

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. POSHARD]. (Mr. POSHARD asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Senate bill 714, the Homeless Veterans Act.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. In closing, let me just say, as others have, that we will be observing Veterans Day here in just of couple of days to honor all those who have served this Nation. I urge my colleagues to support this bill because it will provide meaningful and necessary improvements in many VA programs which serve our Nation's veterans.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in supporting S. 714, a bill to extend the Native American Veterans Housing Loan Program. During my tenure as chairman of the Government Operations Subcommittee on Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations, it was brought to my attention by several tribal governments, including the Navajo Nation, that their members had not been able to take advantage of this housing loan program. At that time, Veterans Administration Secretary, Jesse Brown, supported the extension of this program in order to make it available to a much larger number of native American veterans. While administration support for this program is certainly welcomed and it is vital to ensuring that the program is fully implemented, today, we have an opportunity to strengthen the housing loan program for native American veterans by giving it a legislative authorization until the year 2003.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, I join with my subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Connecticut, CHRIS SHAYS, in praising the addition, in this bill, or authority for the Department to provide noninstitutional alternatives to nursing home care. Under the auspices of the House Government Reform and Oversight Subcommittee on Human Resources, Chairman SHAYS and I have been involved in numerous hearings related to the illnesses suffered by our Gulf War veterans. One of the critical elements in improving the quality of life for veterans suffering from these illnesses has been their ability to receive health care services outside of the traditional V.A. hospital and nursing home setting. Hopefully, this authority will enable the Department to provide not only alternative forms of treatment for our Nation's veterans but to also open up new avenues for research that were heretofore unavailable.

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JOHN WARNER, *Chairman.*

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Mr. Speaker, S. 714 provides new authority to the V.A. I believe these programs will enhance V.A. housing programs for native American veterans and improve the quality of home care treatment for our veterans. I would urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this measure.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for S. 714, extending and improving the Native American Veteran Housing Loan Pilot Program, Homeless Veterans Programs, and other authorities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

The Native American Veteran Housing Loan Pilot Program authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make direct housing loans to qualified Native American Veterans. S. 714 will extend the authority of this program for an additional six years, until December 2003.

The bill contains a provision that would be of particular interest to a portion of my constituency in Hawaii, Native Hawaiian Veterans. The bill extends authority of outreach activities under the Native American Veteran Housing Loan Pilot Program to conferences and conventions conducted by the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. This provision authorizes needed assistance in educating Native Hawaiian Veterans of the availability of these special direct housing loans.

S. 714 also extends the authorization of a number of valuable veterans health care activities and activities that serve the homeless veterans including: Noninstitutional Alternatives to Nursing Home Care Pilot Program; Health Professional Scholarship Program; Drug and alcohol abuse and dependence programs; Housing assistance for Homeless Veterans; Community-Based Residential Care for Homeless Chronically Mentally Ill Veterans; A Demonstration Program of Compensated Work Therapy; Services and Assistance to Homeless Veterans; and Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Projects.

These programs will help provide for the many needs of our veteran population.

Passage of legislation extending such important veterans programs would be a proper way to begin a week of honoring our Veterans and I urge the immediate passage of S. 714.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATHAM). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. STUMP] that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 714, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the Senate bill was amended so as to read: "An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to revise, extend, and improve programs for veterans."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF LEGISLATION TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES TODAY

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, earlier today it was announced that the Com-

mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure would bring to the floor H.R. 2834, Cleveland Airport Transfer. It is now expected that the committee will bring up the Senate version, S. 1347.

SMALL BUSINESS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1997

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate bill, S. 1139, to reauthorize the programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment to House amendment:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the House amendment to the text of the bill, insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the "Small Business Reauthorization Act of 1997".

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

Sec. 3. Effective date.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATIONS

Sec. 101. Authorizations.

TITLE II—FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Subtitle A—Microloan Program

Sec. 201. Microloan program.

Sec. 202. Welfare-to-work microloan initiative.

Subtitle B—Small Business Investment Company Program

Sec. 211. 5-year commitments for SBICs at option of Administrator.

Sec. 212. Underserved areas.

Sec. 213. Private capital.

Sec. 214. Fees.

Sec. 215. Small business investment company program reform.

Sec. 216. Examination fees.

Subtitle C—Certified Development Company Program

Sec. 221. Loans for plant acquisition, construction, conversion, and expansion.

Sec. 222. Development company debentures.

Sec. 223. Premier certified lenders program.

Subtitle D—Miscellaneous Provisions

Sec. 231. Background check of loan applicants.

Sec. 232. Report on increased lender approval, servicing, foreclosure, liquidation, and litigation of section 7(a) loans.

Sec. 233. Completion of planning for loan monitoring system.

TITLE III—WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

Sec. 301. Interagency committee participation.

Sec. 302. Reports.

Sec. 303. Council duties.

Sec. 304. Council membership.

Sec. 305. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 306. National Women's Business Council procurement project.

Sec. 307. Studies and other research.

Sec. 308. Women's business centers.

TITLE IV—COMPETITIVENESS PROGRAM AND PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Subtitle A—Small Business Competitiveness Program

Sec. 401. Program term.

Sec. 402. Monitoring agency performance.

Sec. 403. Reports to Congress.

Sec. 404. Small business participation in dredging.

Sec. 405. Technical amendments.

Subtitle B—Small Business Procurement Opportunities Program

Sec. 411. Contract bundling.

Sec. 412. Definition of contract bundling.

Sec. 413. Assessing proposed contract bundling.

Sec. 414. Reporting of bundled contract opportunities.

Sec. 415. Evaluating subcontract participation in awarding contracts.

Sec. 416. Improved notice of subcontracting opportunities.

Sec. 417. Deadlines for issuance of regulations.

TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 501. Small Business Technology Transfer program.

Sec. 502. Small Business Development Centers.

Sec. 503. Pilot preferred surety bond guarantee program extension.

Sec. 504. Extension of cosponsorship authority.

Sec. 505. Asset sales.

Sec. 506. Small business export promotion.

Sec. 507. Defense Loan and Technical Assistance program.

Sec. 508. Very small business concerns.

Sec. 509. Trade assistance program for small business concerns adversely affected by NAFTA.

TITLE VI—HUBZONE PROGRAM

Sec. 601. Short title.

Sec. 602. Historically underutilized business zones.

Sec. 603. Technical and conforming amendments to the Small Business Act.

Sec. 604. Other technical and conforming amendments.

Sec. 605. Regulations.

Sec. 606. Report.

Sec. 607. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE VII—SERVICE DISABLED VETERANS

Sec. 701. Purposes.

Sec. 702. Definitions.

Sec. 703. Report by Small Business Administration.

Sec. 704. Information collection.

Sec. 705. State of small business report.

Sec. 706. Loans to veterans.

Sec. 707. Entrepreneurial training, counseling, and management assistance.

Sec. 708. Grants for eligible veterans' outreach programs.

Sec. 709. Outreach for eligible veterans.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term "Administration" means the Small Business Administration;

(2) the term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Small Business Administration;

(3) the term "Committees" means the Committees on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Senate; and

(4) the term "small business concern" has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on October 1, 1997.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATIONS

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATIONS.

Section 20 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 note) is amended by striking subsections (c) through (q) and inserting the following:

"(c) FISCAL YEAR 1998.—

"(1) PROGRAM LEVELS.—The following program levels are authorized for fiscal year 1998:

"(A) For the programs authorized by this Act, the Administration is authorized to make—

"(i) \$40,000,000 in technical assistance grants, as provided in section 7(m); and

"(ii) \$60,000,000 in direct loans, as provided in section 7(m).

"(B) For the programs authorized by this Act, the Administration is authorized to make \$16,040,000,000 in deferred participation loans and other financings. Of such sum, the Administration is authorized to make—