

## Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2018

### Title I – Extensions of Authority

#### *Subtitle A – Health Care Matters*

- **Sec. 101-** Would extend to the end of fiscal year (FY) 2020 authority to collect copayments for hospital care and nursing home care
- **Sec. 102-** Would extend to the end of FY2020 authority to provide nursing home care to certain veterans with service-connected disabilities
- **Sec. 103-** Would eliminate the cap on the authorization of appropriations to provide assistance and support services for caregivers
- **Sec. 104-** Would create permanent authority to collect from third parties the cost of treating non-service-connected disabilities
- **Sec. 105-** Would extend to the end of FY2020 authority for the transfer of real property
- **Sec. 106-** Would extend to the end of FY2020 authority to provide and fund child care for certain veterans receiving health care
- **Sec. 107-** Would extend to the end of FY2020 authority to provide grants to veterans service organizations to transport highly rural veterans
- **Sec. 108-** Would extend to the end of FY2020 authority to provide counseling in retreat settings for women veterans recently separated from service
- **Sec. 109-** Would extend to the end of FY2019 authority to temporarily expand payments and allowances for beneficiary travel in connection with veterans receiving care from vet centers

#### *Subtitle B – Benefits Matters*

- **Sec. 121-** Would establish permanent authority to expand eligibility for specially adapted housing assistance for veterans with disabilities that cause ambulation difficulties
- **Sec. 122-** Would extend to the end of FY2020 authority to provide grants for specially adapted housing assistive technology
- **Sec. 123-** Would make permanent authority to guarantee payment of principal and interest on certificates or other securities
- **Sec. 124-** Would make permanent authority for calculating the net value of real property at the time of foreclosure
- **Sec. 125-** Would extend to the end of FY2019 authority relating to vendee loans
- **Sec. 126-** Would establish permanent authority to provide rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of the Armed Forces with severe injuries or illnesses
- **Sec. 127-** Would extend to the end of FY2019 authority to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences regarding associations between diseases and exposure to dioxin and other chemical compounds in herbicides

#### *Subtitle C – Homeless Veterans Matters*

- **Sec. 141-** Would extend to the end of FY2020 authorization of appropriations for homeless veterans reintegration programs
- **Sec. 142-** Would extend to the end of FY2020 authority to provide funding for the homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children reintegration program

- **Sec. 143-** Would extend to the end of FY2020 authority to provide referral and counseling services for certain veterans at risk of homelessness transitioning from certain institutions
- **Sec. 144-** Would extend to the end of FY2020 authority for treatment and rehabilitation services for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans
- **Sec. 145-** Would increase for FY2018 the authorization of appropriations for financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing and would authorize appropriations for FY2019 at \$380 million
- **Sec. 146-** Would extend to the end of FY2020 authority for grants for homeless veterans with special needs
- **Sec. 147-** Would extend to the end of FY2022 authority for the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans

*Subtitle D – Other Matters*

- **Sec. 161-** Would extend to the end of FY2020 VA’s authority to transport certain individuals to and from VA facilities
- **Sec. 162-** Would extend to the end of FY2019 VA’s authority to operate a regional office in the Philippines
- **Sec. 163-** Would extend to the end of FY2020 authority to provide monthly assistance allowances under the Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events
- **Sec. 164-** Would extend to the end of FY2020 the reporting requirement regarding equitable relief for administrative error
- **Sec. 165-** Would extend to the end of FY2020 authority to carry out and fund adaptive sports programs for disabled veterans and members of the Armed Forces
- **Sec. 166-** Would extend to the end of FY2022 the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans and adjust the reporting requirement to every other year

**Title II – Improvement of Health Care from Department of Veterans Affairs**

- **Sec. 201-** Would clarify that the requirement to enter into consolidated, competitively bid contracts for purposes of establishing networks of health care providers for the Veterans Community Care Program would not restrict the Secretary’s authority under other provisions of law when modifying such contracts after award
- **Sec. 202-** Would modify the requirement of interim recognition and acceptance of credentials and qualifications of health care providers under the community care program to apply to those providers in the program one day before the effective date of the Veterans Community Care Program
- **Sec. 203-** Would clarify that VA may furnish care through Veterans Care Agreements (provider agreements) to other individuals than veterans when VA has the authority to furnish such care
- **Sec. 204-** Would clarify that the Secretary’s authority to deduct overpayments is one of several options that are otherwise available under the law for overpayments
- **Sec. 205-** Would modify the eligibility requirements of former members of the Armed Forces for mental and behavioral health care from the VA
- **Sec. 206-** Would clarify that VA licensed health care providers would have access to state prescription drug monitoring programs that do not participate in the national network

- **Sec. 207-** Would eliminate the mandated report on activities and proposals involving contractor personnel of work previously performed by VA employees
- **Sec. 208-** Would require an additional report regarding the increased availability of opioid receptor antagonists to be provided not later than one year following the enactment of this Act
- **Sec. 209-** Would expand a required health care assessment to include extended care services provided to veterans who reside in all the territories of the United States and extend the reporting requirement from 180 to 270 days
- **Sec. 210-** Would authorize a major medical facility project at the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center campus
- **Sec. 211-** Would make technical corrections to title 38 and the provisions enacted in the VA MISSION Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-182), including the following:
  - **Title 38:** Subsections (a)(1)-(a)(11) correct formatting and typographical errors within title 38. Subsection (a)(12) clarifies eligibility to participate in the Specialty Education Loan Repayment Program by including individuals that will be eligible for appointment under section 7401 of title 38.
  - **VA MISSION Act:** Subsections (b)(1)-(b)(7) correct formatting and typographical errors within the MISSION Act. Subsection (b)(8) incorporates the access standards developed under section 1703B of title 38 as criteria to be considered by the Secretary when determining whether a VA facility is considered underserved; from section 401 of P.L. 115-182. Subsections (b)(9) and (b)(10) correct formatting and typographical errors in the MISSION Act.

### **Title III – Other Matters**

- **Sec. 301-** Would require disapproval of higher education courses, beginning after March 1, 2019, offered by public institutions for training and rehabilitation of veterans with service-connected disabilities, unless in-state tuition rates are charged for all veterans receiving such assistance, regardless of state of residence.
- **Sec. 302-** Would require corrective action, discipline, or a waiver in cases where a VA employee receives financial benefit from a for-profit educational institution or receives any services from such an institution while working on veterans educational assistance. It would also apply this standard to employees of State approving agencies and require public notice of any waivers granted.
- **Sec. 303-** Would limit the Secretary's authority to enter into new leases or land-sharing agreements on the VA West Los Angeles campus subsequent to a finding by the VA Inspector General that VA is not in compliance with all Federal laws relating to leases and land use at a specific campus until the Secretary certifies to Congress that all recommendations included in the audit report have been implemented.