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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to rehabilitation programs for veterans with service-connected disabilities, to establish a new bar to certain benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M____. _____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to rehabilitation programs for veterans with service-connected disabilities, to establish a new bar to certain benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Readiness
5 and Employment Integrity Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. BAR TO CERTAIN VETERANS BENEFITS: CONVIC-**
2 **TION OF ASSAULTING, RESISTING, OR IMPED-**
3 **ING AN OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE OF THE DE-**
4 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 5303(a) of title 38,
6 United States Code, is amended—

7 (1) by inserting “(1)” before “The discharge”;
8 and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following new
10 paragraph:

11 “(2)(A) The Secretary may bar a person described
12 in subparagraph (B) from benefits under chapter 30, 31,
13 33, 35, or 36 of this title.

14 “(B) A person described in this subparagraph is a
15 person convicted under section 111 of title 18 for an of-
16 fense against an officer or employee of the Department.”.

17 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this
18 section shall apply to a conviction under section 111 of
19 title 18 for an offense against an officer or employee of
20 the Department of Veterans Affairs that occurs on or
21 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

22 **SEC. 3. PERIODS OF ELIGIBILITY: ADDITIONAL VOCA-**
23 **TIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAMS.**

24 Section 3103(c)(2) of title 38, United States Code,
25 is amended—

1 (1) by striking “, or (B)” and inserting “, (B)”;

2 and

3 (2) by striking “; or” and inserting “, or (C)

4 the veteran has not obtained employment (i) in the

5 occupation for which such veteran had been so

6 trained (ii) during the one-year period after the end

7 of such training; or”.

8 **SEC. 4. SCOPE OF SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE FOR A REHA-**

9 **BILITATION PROGRAM: APPROVAL OF THE**

10 **SECRETARY REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN PAY-**

11 **MENTS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3104(a) of title 38,

13 United States Code, is amended, in paragraph (7), by add-

14 ing at the end the following new subparagraph:

15 “(C) A payment for equipment under subpara-

16 graph (A) that exceeds \$5,000 shall require the ap-

17 proval of the Secretary.”.

18 (b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date

19 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for

20 five years, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit

21 to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and

22 House of Representatives a report of payments approved

23 under subparagraph (C) of such paragraph, as added by

24 this section, during the year preceding the date of such

1 report. In such a report, the Secretary shall identify, with
2 regards to each such payment—

3 (1) the equipment purchased;

4 (2) the reason for the purchase; and

5 (3) the total equipment purchased for the reha-
6 bilitation program of the veteran.

7 **SEC. 5. MAXIMUM AMOUNT FOR A REHABILITATION PRO-**
8 **GRAM; AUTOMATIC ADJUSTMENT.**

9 Section 3104 of title 38, United States Code, is
10 amended, in subsection (b)—

11 (1) by inserting “(1)” before “A rehabilitation
12 program”;

13 (2) by designating the second and third sen-
14 tences, collectively, as paragraph (2) of such sub-
15 section and adjusting the margins accordingly; and

16 (3) by adding at the end the following new
17 paragraph:

18 “(3)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the amount of
19 Federal funds paid for a rehabilitation program may not
20 exceed \$250,000.

21 “(B) Effective October 1, 2026, and each year there-
22 after, the Secretary shall increase the dollar amount in
23 effect under paragraph (A), by a percentage equal to the
24 most recent percentage increase under section 3015(h) of
25 this title.”.

1 **SEC. 6. VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SPECIALIST: AU-**
2 **THORITY TO REDEVELOP INDIVIDUALIZED**
3 **VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PLAN; DEFINITION.**
4

5 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—Section 3106(f) of such title is
6 amended by inserting “(who may be a vocational rehabili-
7 tation specialist)” after “employee”.

8 (b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 3101 of
9 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
10 end the following new paragraph:

11 “(11) The term ‘vocational rehabilitation spe-
12 cialist’ means—

13 “(A) a vocational rehabilitation specialist
14 in the Veteran Readiness and Employment divi-
15 sion of the Veterans Benefits Administration; or

16 “(B) a counseling psychologist of the De-
17 partment performing the duties of a vocational
18 rehabilitation specialist.”.

19 **SEC. 7. SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE FOR A VETERAN ENTI-**
20 **TLED TO A REHABILITATION PROGRAM AND**
21 **POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE: BASIS**
22 **OF LOCATION.**

23 Section 3108(b)(4) of title 38, United States Code,
24 is amended—

1 (1) by striking “the institution providing the re-
2 habilitation program concerned.” and inserting an
3 em dash; and

4 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
5 paragraphs:

6 “(A) the institution providing the rehabilitation
7 program concerned; or

8 “(B) the residence of the veteran if such resi-
9 dence is more than 25 miles from such institution.”.

10 **SEC. 8. EMPLOYMENT COUNSELORS.**

11 Section 3117 of title 38, United States Code, is
12 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
13 section:

14 “(c) To carry out this section, the Secretary shall,
15 to the extent practicable, employ an employment counselor
16 at each regional office of the Department.”.

17 **SEC. 9. INELIGIBILITY OF A VETERAN IN A VOCATIONAL**
18 **REHABILITATION PROGRAM FOR DISABILITY**
19 **COMPENSATION ON THE BASIS OF A DIS-**
20 **ABILITY RATED AS TOTAL ON THE BASIS OF**
21 **INDIVIDUAL UNEMPLOYABILITY.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 31 of title 38, United
23 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
24 lowing new section:

1 **“§ 3123. Ineligibility of a veteran in a vocational reha-**
2 **bilitation program for compensation for a**
3 **disability rated as total on the basis of in-**
4 **dividual unemployability**

5 “A veteran participating in a vocational rehabilitation
6 program may not receive disability compensation under
7 chapter 11 of this title for a disability rated as total on
8 the basis of individual unemployability.”.

9 (b) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections at
10 the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at
11 the end the following new item:

“3123. Ineligibility of a veteran in a vocational rehabilitation program for com-
pensation for a disability rated as total on the basis of indi-
vidual unemployability.”.

12 **SEC. 10. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

13 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3101 of title 38, United
14 States Code, is amended by redesignating the paragraph
15 (10) relating to the term “emergency situation” as para-
16 graph (1).

17 (b) PERIODS OF ELIGIBILITY.—Section 3103 of title
18 38, United States Code, is amended—

19 (1) in the second subsection (h), by inserting
20 “in” after “participating”;

21 (2) by redesignating such second subsection (h),
22 as amended, as subsection (i); and

23 (3) in subsection (a), by striking “or (h)” and
24 inserting “(h) or (i)”.