

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3387

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve health care programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs and to extend certain expiring authorities.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 29, 2003

Mr. EVANS (for himself and Mr. RODRIGUEZ) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve health care programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs and to extend certain expiring authorities.

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; REFERENCES TO TITLE 38.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Health Pro-  
5 grams Improvement Act of 2003”.

6 (b) REFERENCES TO TITLE 38.—Except as otherwise  
7 expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment  
8 or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or  
9 repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall

1 be considered to be made to a section or other provision  
2 of title 38, United States Code.

3 **SEC. 2. CARE FOR NEWBORN CHILDREN OF WOMEN VET-**  
4 **ERANS RECEIVING MATERNITY CARE.**

5 (a) **AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE NEWBORN INFANT**  
6 **CARE.**—Subchapter VIII of chapter 17 is amended by  
7 adding at the end the following new section:

8 **“§ 1785. Care for newborn children of women vet-**  
9 **erans receiving maternity care**

10 “The Secretary may furnish care to a newborn child  
11 of a woman veteran who is receiving maternity care fur-  
12 nished by the Department for up to 14 days after the birth  
13 of the child if the veteran delivered the child in a Depart-  
14 ment facility or in a non-Department facility under a De-  
15 partment contract for the delivery services.”.

16 (b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections  
17 at the beginning of such subchapter is amended by insert-  
18 ing after the item relating to section 1784 the following  
19 new item:

“1785. Care for newborn children of women veterans receiving maternity care.”.

20 **SEC. 3. ENHANCEMENT OF REHABILITATIVE SERVICES.**

21 (a) **REHABILITATIVE SERVICES THROUGH MEDICAL**  
22 **CARE AUTHORITY.**—Section 1701(8) is amended by strik-  
23 ing “(other than those types of vocational rehabilitation  
24 services provided under chapter 31 of this title)”.

25 (b) Section 1718 is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (c)(1)—

2 (A) by striking “subsection (b) of this sec-  
3 tion” and inserting “subsection (b) or (d)”; and

4 (B) by striking “paragraph (2) of such  
5 subsection” and inserting “subsection (b)(2)”;

6 (2) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), and  
7 (f) as subsections (e), (f), and (g), respectively; and

8 (3) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-  
9 lowing new subsection (d):

10 “(d) In providing to a veteran rehabilitative services  
11 under this chapter, the Secretary may furnish the veteran  
12 with the following:

13 “(1) Work skills training and development serv-  
14 ices.

15 “(2) Employment support services.

16 “(3) Job development and placement services.”.

17 **SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF EXPIRED SPECIAL TREATMENT AU-**  
18 **THORITIES.**

19 (a) VIETNAM-ERA HERBICIDE-EXPOSED VET-  
20 ERANS.—Section 1710(e)(3)(A) is amended by striking  
21 “December 31, 2002” and inserting “December 31,  
22 2008”.

23 (b) PERSIAN GULF VETERANS.—Section  
24 1710(e)(3)(B) is amended by striking “December 31,  
25 2002” and inserting “December 31, 2008”.

1 **SEC. 5. REQUIREMENT FOR PATIENTS TO PROVIDE CER-**  
2 **TAIN HEALTH-PLAN INFORMATION.**

3 (a) Subchapter I of chapter 17 is amended by adding  
4 at the end the following new section:

5 **“§ 1709. Provision of health-plan contract informa-**  
6 **tion**

7 “(a) An individual who applies for or is in receipt  
8 of hospital, nursing home, or domiciliary care, medical, re-  
9 habilitative, or preventive health services, or other medical  
10 care under laws administered by the Secretary shall, at  
11 the time of such application, or otherwise when requested  
12 by the Secretary, furnish the Secretary with such current  
13 information as the Secretary may require to identify any  
14 health-plan contract, as defined in section 1729(i)(1) of  
15 this title, under which such individual is covered. Such  
16 identifying information may include, as applicable, the  
17 name, address, and telephone number of such health-plan  
18 contract, the name of the individual’s spouse, if the indi-  
19 vidual’s coverage is under the spouse’s health-plan con-  
20 tract, the plan number, and the plan’s group code.

21 “(b) The Secretary shall deny the individual’s appli-  
22 cation for, or terminate the individual’s enrollment in, the  
23 system of patient enrollment established by the Secretary  
24 under section 1705 of this title if the individual does not  
25 provide the health-plan contract identifying information  
26 required or requested to be furnished pursuant to sub-

1 section (a). The Secretary, following such denial or termi-  
2 nation, may, upon receipt of the information required or  
3 requested, approve the individual's application or reinstate  
4 the individual's enrollment (if otherwise in order), for such  
5 medical care and services provided on and after the date  
6 of such receipt of information.

7 “(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed as au-  
8 thority to deny medical care or treatment to an individual  
9 in a medical emergency.”.

10 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
11 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting  
12 after the item relating to section 1708 the following new  
13 item:

“1709. Provision of health-plan contract information.”.

14 **SEC. 6. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR LEASE TO NON-**  
15 **PROFITS OR STATES OF PROPERTIES ON**  
16 **WHICH VETERANS HAVE DEFAULTED ON**  
17 **GUARANTEED HOME LOANS.**

18 (a) EXTENSION.—Section 2041(c) is amended by  
19 striking “December 31, 2003” and inserting “December  
20 31, 2008”.

21 (b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—The first sentence of  
22 section 2041(a)(2) is amended by striking “this chapter”  
23 and inserting “chapter 37 of this title”.

1 **SEC. 7. FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION OF CERTAIN ANNUAL RE-**  
2 **PORTS.**

3 (a) REPORT ON COMMITTEE ON CARE OF SEVERELY  
4 CHRONICALLY MENTALLY ILL VETERANS.—Section  
5 7321(d)(2) is amended by striking “February 1, 1998,  
6 and February 1 of each of the six following years” and  
7 inserting “February 1 of each year through 2009”.

8 (b) PTSD REPORT.—Section 110(e)(2) of the Vet-  
9 erans Health Care Act of 1984 (38 U.S.C. 1712A note)  
10 is amended by striking “February 1, 2001, and February  
11 1 of each of the three following years” and inserting “Feb-  
12 ruary 1 of each year through 2009”.

13 **SEC. 8. FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION OF READJUSTMENT COUN-**  
14 **SELING FOR VIETNAM-ERA VETERANS.**

15 Section 1712(a)(1)(B)(ii) is amended by striking  
16 “January 1, 2004” and inserting “January 1, 2009”.

17 **SEC. 9. PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR SEXUAL TRAUMA**  
18 **COUNSELING.**

19 Section 1720D(a) is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “During the  
21 period through December 31, 2004, the” and insert-  
22 ing “The”; and

23 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “, during the  
24 period through December 31, 2004,”.