

109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 6035

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide enhanced travel benefits for veterans traveling to facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 6, 2006

Mr. LARSEN of Washington 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 direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide enhanced travel benefits for veterans traveling to facilities of the Department 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 “Rural Veterans Trans-  
5       portation Act of 2006”.

1 **SEC. 2. TRANSPORTATION GRANTS FOR RURAL VETERANS**  
2 **SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM.—Sub-  
4 chapter III of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code,  
5 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

6 **“§ 1730A. Transportation grant program**

7 “(a) GRANT PROGRAM.—(1) The Secretary shall es-  
8 tablish a grant program to make grants to State veterans’  
9 service officers and veterans service organizations for the  
10 purpose of providing innovative transportation options to  
11 veterans in remote rural areas.

12 “(2) To be eligible to receive a grant under this sec-  
13 tion a State veterans’ service officer or veterans service  
14 organization shall submit an application to the Secretary  
15 at such time, in such manner, and containing such infor-  
16 mation and assurances as the Secretary may require.

17 “(3) The recipient of a grant under this section shall  
18 use the grant to—

19 “(A) provide assistance to veterans for traveling  
20 to Department medical centers; and

21 “(B) otherwise assist in providing medical care  
22 to veterans in remote rural areas.

23 “(4) A grant under this section shall not exceed  
24 \$50,000.

1       “(5) A recipient of a grant under this section shall  
2 not be required to provide matching funds as a condition  
3 of receiving such a grant.

4       “(b) RULEMAKING.—The Secretary shall prescribe  
5 regulations for—

6           “(1) evaluating grant applications under this  
7 section; and

8           “(2) otherwise administering the program es-  
9 tablished by this section.

10       “(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘veterans  
11 service organization’ means any organization named in or  
12 approved under section 5902 of this title.

13       “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
14 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
15 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2011.”.

16       (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
17 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting  
18 after the item relating to section 1730 the following new  
19 item:

“1730A. Transportation grant program.”.

20 **SEC. 3. TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT FOR VETERANS RECEIV-**  
21 **ING TREATMENT AT FACILITIES OF THE DE-**  
22 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

23       (a) REIMBURSEMENT.—Section 111 of title 38,  
24 United States Code, is amended—

25           (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) by striking “subsistence),” and insert-  
2 ing “subsistence at a rate equivalent to the rate  
3 provided to Federal employees under section  
4 5702 of title 5),”; and

5 (B) by striking “traveled,” and inserting  
6 “(at a rate equivalent to the rate provided to  
7 Federal employees under section 5704 of title  
8 5),”;

9 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “subsection  
10 (g)(2)(A) of this section or”;

11 (3) by striking subsection (g); and

12 (4) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-  
13 section (g).

14 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
15 Amounts required to carry out the amendments made by  
16 subsection (a) shall be specifically appropriated for that  
17 purpose.

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