



Legislative Bulletin.....November 9, 2005

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H.R. 3665 — Veterans Housing and Employment Improvement Act of 2005

Summary of the Bill Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 1

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$155 million over five years

Effect on Revenue: \$0

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$2-3 million over five years

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 0

Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 0

**H.R. 3665 — Veterans Housing and Employment Improvement Act of 2005
(Boozman)**

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, November 9, 2005, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Note: Under the House Republican Conference Rules, no new programs or reauthorizations of sunset programs may be considered on the suspension calendar. This rule may be waived by a vote of the elected leadership. This legislation, which creates one new program and reauthorizes several programs set to sunset, received a waiver from the elected leadership.

Summary: H.R. 3665 creates a new program, providing certain disabled veterans temporarily residing in a home owned by a member of his family, with financial assistance for the purpose of

remodeling that family member's home to accommodate disabled individuals. Current law allows disabled veterans who *own* their own home to receive assistance for the same purpose.

Additionally, the bill makes permanent a pilot program which provides direct housing loans to "Native American" veterans (authorization is set to expire on December 31, 2008). Eligibility for this program is extended to non-Native American veterans who are the spouse of a Native American.

H.R. 3665 reauthorizes the appropriations for the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program at \$50 million for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2009.

The legislation makes some changes to current law regarding traumatic injury protection coverage under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance. Among other things, the bill clarifies that any member of the uniformed services who is insured under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance is automatically insured for traumatic injury.

H.R. 3665 extends the operation and authorization for the President's National Hire Veterans Committee until not later than December 31, 2006 (a one-year extension), and directs the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training to provide information to employers with respect to the training and skills of veterans and disabled veterans, and the advantages afforded employers by hiring veterans with such training and skills. The bill also makes a number of modifications to the Advisory Committee on Veterans.

Committee Action: On September 7, 2005, the bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, which held a mark-up and ordered it to be reported by unanimous consent on October 20, 2005.

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO estimates that this legislation authorizes \$3 million in 2006 and approximately \$155 million over five years, subject to annual appropriation. Additionally, CBO estimates that enacting the bill would increase direct spending by less than \$500,000 in 2006, by \$2 million over five years, and by less than \$500,000 over 15 years.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: Yes. The bill creates a new program, makes a pilot program permanent, and reauthorizes several programs set to sunset.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee finds authority in, Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution (the congressional power to provide for the common defense).

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