

H.R. 5360, as amended
The Housing, Employment, and Living Programs for Veterans Act of 2010
(The HELP Veterans Act of 2010)

Title: To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Ms. Herseth Sandlin introduced H.R. 5360 on May 20, 2010.

H.R. 5360, as amended, would:

- Define VA's definition of blindness to coincide with existing law and allow more blind veterans to qualify for the adapted housing benefit.
- Authorize the VA to guarantee a loan regardless of whether the VA loan is subordinate to a lien created by a state that has provided or will provide assistance in response to a major disaster. The new language will extend to December 31, 2016, existing authority to issue and guarantee certificates or other securities evidencing an interest in a pool of mortgage loans.
- Authorize the VA Secretary to make loan guarantees to veterans seeking to start a small business venture.
- Increase the flight training allowance for Chapter 30 recipients from 60 percent to 75 percent of the established charges for tuition and fees.
- Increase, for seven years, the amount of educational assistance payments made by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to individuals pursuing an apprenticeship or on-the-job training (OJT) under the Montgomery G.I. Bill, the Post-Vietnam Era Veterans, the Survivors and Dependents, and the Selected Reserve Montgomery G.I. Bill educational assistance programs.
- Extend to June 30, 2020, veterans work-study activities that expired on June 30, 2010.
- Expand the VA's Work-Study Allowance Program to afford student veterans the opportunity to work in Congressional offices as part of their VA work-study requirements.
- Temporarily reduce the requirement for private employers to provide a wage increase, from 85 percent to 60 percent, for the remainder of the program participation.
- Reauthorize the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education (VACE) to December 31, 2020.
- Direct the Secretary of Labor to make grants to programs and facilities that provide services for homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children.
- Direct the VA Secretary to establish a team that would be responsible for reviewing new technologies and products that are beneficial to the Department of Veterans Affairs and provide the Secretary the authority to make grants for the development of new assistive technologies for specially adapted housing. The amount of the grant may be no more than \$250,000 per year.
- Provide reimbursement, for up to \$2,000 per month, for certified child care assistance for single parents participating in the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VRE) program.
- Increase the amount of reporting fees payable to educational institutions that enroll veterans receiving educational assistance from \$7 to \$16 and from \$11 to \$16.
- Modify the current advance payment of educational assistance.
- Increase the amount of subsistence allowance payable to veterans participating in VR&E by 7.0 percent.
- Provide veterans with an allowance for three months after having gone through the VR&E program.
- Provide a \$500/month subsistence allowance to rural veterans, seeking full-time employment as a teacher in an accredited elementary or secondary school.
- Authorize the VA Secretary to provide up to 2,000 paid internships to injured veterans who participated in the VRE program.
- Require the VA Secretary to meet veteran owned small contracting goals by amending the word "may" to "shall".

- Authorize VA to hold a yearly veterans entrepreneurial development summit.
- Increase the maximum amount of Specially Adapted Housing Assistance for two grants. The Paraplegic Housing grant would increase from \$63,780 to \$65,780 and the Adaptive Housing grant would change from \$12,756 to \$13,756.
- Authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to guarantee housing loans for the construction of energy efficient dwellings, and for other purposes.
- Prohibit the amount of assistance afforded under the Temporary Residence Adaptation grant program from counting toward the dollar amount limitations under the SHA or SAH grant programs. This pilot program would be available to the first 25 veterans who apply for the two grants in Fiscal Year 2011.
- Comply with Pay-as-you-go.

Effective Date: Date of enactment.

Legislative History:

- Jun. 10, 2010: Legislative hearing held by the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.
- Jul. 15, 2010: Ordered reported, as amended, by the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.
- Sept. 15, 2010: Ordered reported by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
- Sept. 28, 2010: Reported by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, H. Rept. 111-626.
- Sept. 28, 2010: House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the bill (amended) by voice vote.

Provisions of H.R. 293; H.R. 297; H.R. 1098; H.R. 1171, as amended; H.R. 1336; H.R. 1821; H.R. 2614; H.R. 3484; H.R. 3561; H.R. 3579; H.R. 4079; H.R. 4319; H.R. 4359; and H.R. 4765 are included in this legislation.