

Summary of H.R. 2433, as amended Veterans Opportunity to Work Act of 2011

Title: To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws relating to the employment and training of veterans, and for other purposes.

Mr. Miller of Florida introduced H.R. 2433 on July 7, 2011.

H.R. 2433, as amended, would:

- Begin the retraining program in 2012 and end March 2014 and would permit 45,000 veterans in the first year and 55,000 veterans in the second year.
- Provide that the monthly retraining assistance payments based on the Chapter 30 Montgomery GI Bill rate for up to 12 months are for education use only.
- Establish eligibility requirements: ages between 35 and 60; honorably discharged; are not eligible for education benefits.
- Provide that the source of funds shall be made from appropriated VA readjustment benefits account.
- Direct the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Labor to submit a joint report no later than July 1, 2014.
- Require that TAP classes be mandatory and available worldwide within 24 months.
- Require that TAP classes shall be encouraged to servicemembers in pay grade E-8 and above and O-6.
- Require that the annual report required by DOL to track outcomes, review TAP and submit a report with recommendations for improvement be paid from funds from the VETS State grant program.
- Reauthorize the demonstration project on licensing and credentialing to 2014.
- Direct the Department of Labor to review 5 to 10 MOS and spend up to \$180,000 of appropriated funds.
- Require all DVOPS and LVERS take a final exam at the end of training at NVTI. Department of Labor will conduct audit to ensure that DVOPS and LVERS are not performing non-veteran duties.
- Clarify benefits of employment covered under USERRA.
- Extend the Adjustable Rate Mortgages from 2012 to 2014.
- Extend the Hybrid Adjustable Rate Mortgages from 2012 to 2014.
- Extend from 2011 to December 31, 2016 existing authority to issue and guarantee certificates or other securities evidencing an interest in a pool of mortgage loans.
- Include as a veteran, for purposes of eligibility for housing loans guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the surviving spouse of a veteran who at the time of death was in receipt of or entitled to compensation for a service-connected disability

rated totally disabling if: (1) the disability was so rated for 10 or more years preceding death; (2) the disability was so rated for at least 5 years since the veteran's discharge or release from active duty; or (3) the veteran was a former prisoner of war who died after September 30, 1999, and the disability was so rated for at least 1 year preceding death. Requires any applicable VA housing loan fee to be collected from such spouse.

- Extend the Homeless Veterans Reintegration program from 2011 to 2012.
- Authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide reimbursement for ambulance services.
- Require the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs and Defense to submit to Congress at least once every year separate reports on the Post-9/11 GI Bill and Survivor's and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program.
- Limit the amount authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Veterans Affairs for employee travel, printing, and fleet vehicles for fiscal year 2012 to no more than \$385,000,000.
- Extend the reduced pension from 2015 to 2016 for certain veterans covered by Medicaid plans for services furnished by nursing facilities.
- Comply with PAYGO rules.

Effective Date: Date of enactment.

Legislative History:

Jul. 15, 2011: Legislative hearing held by the Full Committee.

Sept. 8, 2011: Full Committee Markup – ordered reported to the House.

Oct. 6, 2011: Reported by the Committee, H. Rept. 112-242, Part 1.

Oct. 12, 2011: House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the bill by a record vote of 418-6.