



1. [H.R. 5587: Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, as amended](#)
2. [H.R. 5985: Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2016](#)

H.R. 5587: Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, as amended (Thompson, R-PA)

CONTACT: [Rebekah Armstrong](#), 202-226-0678

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration September 13, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5557](#) would amend, and reauthorize through 2022, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act that provides fund to support to local and state career technical education (CTE) programs. This bill makes changes that bring the program's standards into alignment with those set in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

COST:

The [Congressional Budget Office](#) (CBO) estimates that implementing H.R. 5587 would cost \$4.4 billion over the 2017-2021 period, and about \$2.7 billion after 2021, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

Some conservatives may feel that the federal government should not be involved in funding career or technical education at either the secondary or post-secondary level; however, this bill makes improvements to the current law by ensuring more state and local control over CTE programs, and strengthens the current prohibition on a federal curriculum and mandates.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

This bill would amend the [Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act](#) which was last reauthorized in 2006, and is the principle source of federal funding to states for the improvement of secondary and postsecondary career and technical education (CTE) programs. The purpose of the bill is to develop the academic knowledge, technical skills, and employability skills of secondary and postsecondary education students who elect to enroll in career and technical education programs. This bill reauthorizes the program through fiscal year 2022. It is important to note, in many instances this bill replaces "such sums as necessary" with authorization levels consistent with the budget caps.

First, the bill would strengthen the existing prohibition on centralized federal curriculum and testing tied to federal funding. It would prohibit coercion to adopt or implement specific academic standards, assessments or curriculum as a condition to receiving any federal funding. This language mirrors the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

This bill would increase the current funding allocation levels to allow states to prioritize more funding for rural areas, areas with a high percentage of CTE participants or students with a CTE concentration to promote the development and adoption of programs of study aligned with state-identified in-demand

occupations or industries. It would also increase (from 1% to 2%) the allowable funding made available to serve individuals in state institutions including juvenile justice facilities.

The bill would update accountability standards to bring this act into alignment with both ESSA and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Specifically, it would decrease the number of core indicators of performance for CTE concentrators at the secondary level from six to five. These core indicators include factors such as: percentage who graduates from high school, the attainment of state academic standards, percentage who continue to receive further CTE credentials and other measures of student success. It would also strike the centralized technical skills proficiency indicator and replace it with a state-determined quality indicator that is ambitious enough to allow for a meaningful evaluation of program quality.

Next, this bill would end the National Center for Education Statistics annual performance report. It would require the secretary, in acting with the Director of the Institute for Education Sciences, to conduct a series of research and evaluation initiatives for each year to provide for an assessment on this act and CTE programs. This evaluation would include reporting on the success of the integration of challenging state academic standards, the extent to which CTE programs prepare students for employment, employer satisfaction with CTE programs, and innovative learning opportunities.

The secretary would award grants to identify innovative strategies and activities to improve CTE and align workforce skills with labor market needs. Eligible grantees must have enough cash or in-kind contributions to provide matching funds equal to at least 50% of the funds provided through the grant.

To streamline the application process, this bill clarifies a state plan may be submitted in combination with a Workforce Development Activity plan submitted under WIOA. A state plan would be developed in consultation with a wide array of stake holders, including the state workforce development board. The state plan would include: state-supported workforce activities; a strategic vision and goals for meeting the needs of employers; a description of CTE programs that would be supported; and, how the state agency would approve eligible recipients for funds. As seen in ESSA, the secretary would be required to approve a state plan, or a revision to a plan, unless it does not meet the requirements of this act and provides immediate written notice.

In addition, reins in the power of the secretary by prohibiting him from withholding funding for failure to meet at least 90% performance level on state adjusted core indicators after the first year. Instead, states would be required to implement an improvement plan and would subject to the improvement plan until the eligible agency meets at least 90% of the core indicators of performance for which the plan was revised. At the local level, improvement plans would be developed in collaboration with local stakeholders.

Aside from a narrowed list of required elements, eligible agencies would determine the requirements for local applications. As part of the application for funds, eligible local recipients must conduct a comprehensive local needs assessment least one every two years. This assessment would include: the performance of students served by the eligible recipient; how the CTE program would align with regional and state goals; and, how the recipient will improve all aspects of CTE education and career success. Local recipients would be required to consult with area stakeholders, including parents and students, and CTE representatives.

This bill would require a state's fiscal effort per student or the aggregate expenditures of the state with respect to CTE to be at least equal to the preceding fiscal year. If a state fails to meet this requirement the secretary would reduce the state's amount of allotment funds. A waiver could be issued due to exceptional or uncontrollable circumstances affecting the state.

Finally, this bill would amend the [Wagner-Peyser Act](#) to require states to consult with [Perkins eligible agencies](#), state educational agencies, and local educational agencies concerning the provision of workforce

and labor market information in order to meet the need of secondary and postsecondary school students who seek information.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This bill was introduced by Representative Thompson and referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. The committee held a mark-up and the bill was reported out, as amended, by a vote of 37-0.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8. No specific enumerating clause as included.

H.R. 5985: Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2016 (Miller, R-FL)

CONTACT: [Rebekah Armstrong](#), 202-226-0678

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration September 12, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5985](#) would extend numerous expiring programs at the Department of Veterans Affairs including authorities related to health care, veteran benefits, and homeless veterans.

COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost estimate is not available at this time.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** The bill would moderately increase the authorization level for a small number of the covered programs.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

First, this bill would extend the authority of eight health care programs including:

1. [Extend](#) the collection of copayments for hospital care and nursing home care through September 30, 2017;
2. [Extend](#) the requirement to provide nursing home care to certain veterans with service-connected disabilities through December 31, 2017;
3. [Extend](#) the authorization for appropriation for assistance and support services for caregivers through fiscal year 2017. The authorization level would be increased from \$625,000,000 for fiscal year 2016 to \$734,628,000;
4. [Extend](#) the authority for recovery from third parties the cost of care and services furnished to veterans with health-plan contracts for non-service connected disability through October 1, 2017;
5. [Extend](#) the pilot program on assistance for child care for certain veteran receiving health care through December 31, 2016;
6. [Extend](#) the authority to make grants to veteran service organizations for transportation of highly rural veterans through 2017;
7. [Extend](#) the authority for a pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service through 2017, and;
8. [Extend](#) the deadline to report on the pilot program on the use of community-based organizations and government entities to ensure that veterans receive care and benefits for which they are eligible through September 30, 2017.

Title II of the bill would extend the following benefit programs

1. [Extend](#) the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education through fiscal year 2017;

2. [Extend](#) the authority for calculating the net value of real property at the time of foreclosure through October 1, 2017.
3. [Extend](#) the authority for vendee loans through September 30, 2017.
4. Extend rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of the armed forces with severe injuries or illnesses through December 31, 2017

Title III of the bill would extend the following homeless veteran programs:

1. [Extend](#) the authority for homeless veteran reintegration programs through fiscal year 2017;
2. [Extend](#) the authority for the homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children reintegration program through fiscal year 2017;
3. [Extend](#) the authority for referral and counseling services for veterans at risk of homelessness and transitioning from certain institutions through September 30, 2017;
4. [Extend](#) the authority to provide housing assistance to homeless veterans through September 30, 2017;
5. [Extend](#) and modify the authority to provide financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing through fiscal year 2017. The authorization level would be increased from \$3 million to \$3.2 million;
6. [Extend](#) the authority for grant programs for homeless veterans with special needs through fiscal year 2017;
7. [Extend](#) the authority for the advisory committee on homeless veterans through December 31, 2017, and;
8. [Extend](#) the authority for treatment and rehabilitation services for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans through September 30, 2017.

Title IV modifies and extends various programs that did not categorically fit within the previous titles, and includes:

1. [Extend](#) the authority for transportation of individuals to and from department facilities in connection with vocational rehabilitation or counseling through December 31, 2017;
2. [Extend](#) the authority for the operation of the Department of Veterans Affairs regional office in Manila, the Republic of the Philippine through September 30, 2017;
3. [Extend](#) the authority for monthly assistance allowances under the Office of National Veteran Sports Programs and Special Events through fiscal year 2017;
4. [Extend](#) the requirement to provide reports to Congress regarding equitable relief in the case of administration error through December 31, 2017;
5. [Extend](#) the authorization of appropriation for [adaptive sports programs](#) for disabled veterans and members of the armed forces through fiscal year 2017;
6. [Extend](#) the authority for advisory committee on minority veterans through December 31, 2016;
7. [Modify](#) the authorization of appropriations for comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans from \$250 million to \$257,700,000;
8. [Extend](#) the authority for the temporary expansion of eligibility for specially adapted housing assistance for certain veterans with disabilities causing difficulty ambulating through September 30, 2017;
9. [Extend](#) the authority for specially adapted housing assistive technology grant program through September 30, 2017;
10. [Extend](#) the authority to guarantee payment of principal and interest on certificates and other securities through December 31, 2017;
11. [Extend](#) the authority to enter into agreement with the National Academy of Sciences regarding associations between disease and exposure to dioxin and other chemical compounds in herbicides through December 31, 2017;
12. [Extend](#) the authority for performance of medical disabilities examinations by contract physicians through December 31, 2017;
13. [Extend](#) from two to three years the prior reporting fee multiplier which would decrease the amount of reporting fees paid by VA to GI Bill eligible schools for each trainee;

14. [Extend](#) the requirement for annual an annual report on the Department of Defense/ Department of Veterans Affairs interagency program office through fiscal year 2017;
15. Extend the scope of practice limits for certified registered nurse anesthetists for year after the enactment of this bill. To combat wait times, the VA proposed to [expand the scope of practice](#) for nurse anesthetist to allow them to treat patients without a doctor present.
16. [Extend](#) the authority to approve courses of education in cases of withdrawal of recognition of accrediting agency by the secretary of Education for a period of time not to exceed 18 months.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This bill was introduced by Representative Miller and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs where it awaits further action.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8. No specific enumerating clause was included.