

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2984

To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand and enhance veterans' benefits, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 6, 2008

Mr. AKAKA (by request) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand and enhance veterans' benefits, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Veterans’ Benefits Enhancement Act of 2008”.

6 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for  
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.

### TITLE I—EDUCATION MATTERS

- Sec. 101. Elimination of reporting requirement for prior training.

- Sec. 102. Modification of waiting period before affirmation of enrollment in a correspondence course.
- Sec. 103. Elimination of change-of-program application.
- Sec. 104. Elimination of wage earning requirement for self-employment on-job training.

#### TITLE II—OTHER BENEFITS MATTERS

- Sec. 201. Staying of claims.
- Sec. 202. Management of Board of Veterans' Appeals Docket.
- Sec. 203. Authorization of memorial headstones and markers for deceased re-married surviving spouses of veterans.
- Sec. 204. Permanent authority for VA to fund contract medical disability examinations.
- Sec. 205. Modification of servicemembers' group life insurance coverage.
- Sec. 206. Permit VA to provide Temporary Residence Assistance Grants to certain active duty servicemembers.
- Sec. 207. Designation of VA Office of Small Business Programs.

#### TITLE III—HEALTH CARE MATTERS

- Sec. 301. Noninstitutional extended care services.
- Sec. 302. Extensions of certain authorities.
- Sec. 303. Permanent authority for veterans who participated in certain chemical and biological testing conducted by the Department of Defense.
- Sec. 304. Repeal of certain annual reporting requirements.
- Sec. 305. Amendments to annual Gulf War research report.
- Sec. 306. Payment for care furnished to CHAMPVA beneficiaries.
- Sec. 307. Payor provisions for care furnished to certain children of Vietnam veterans.
- Sec. 308. Disclosures from certain medical records.
- Sec. 309. Provision of health-plan contract information and Social Security number.

#### TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- Sec. 401. Expansion of authority for Department of Veterans Affairs police officers.
- Sec. 402. Uniform allowance for Department of Veterans Affairs police officers.
- Sec. 403. Increase in threshold for major medical facility leases requiring Congressional approval.

### 1 **SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.**

2       Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in  
3 this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms  
4 of an amendment or repeal to a section or other provision,  
5 the reference shall be considered to be made to a section  
6 or other provision of title 38, United States Code.

1 **TITLE I—EDUCATION MATTERS**

2 **SEC. 101. ELIMINATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR**  
3 **PRIOR TRAINING.**

4 Section 3676(c)(4) is amended by striking “and the  
5 Secretary”.

6 **SEC. 102. MODIFICATION OF WAITING PERIOD BEFORE AF-**  
7 **FIRMATION OF ENROLLMENT IN A COR-**  
8 **RESPONDENCE COURSE.**

9 Section 3686(b) is amended by striking “ten” and in-  
10 serting “five”.

11 **SEC. 103. ELIMINATION OF CHANGE-OF-PROGRAM APPLI-**  
12 **CATION.**

13 Section 3691(d) is amended—

14 (1) by inserting “(1)” following “another pro-  
15 gram if—”;

16 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3),  
17 and (4) as subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D);

18 (3) at the end of subparagraph (C), as redesign-  
19 nated by paragraph (2) of this section, by striking  
20 “or”; and

21 (4) by striking the period and inserting “; or

22 “(2) the change from one program to another  
23 is at the same educational institution and that edu-  
24 cational institution finds that the new program is  
25 suitable to the veteran’s or person’s aptitudes, inter-

1 ests, and abilities as shall be evidenced by its certifi-  
2 cation to the Secretary of such veteran's or person's  
3 enrollment in the new program.

4 In the case of a change of program described in paragraph  
5 (2), the veteran or person will not be required to apply  
6 to the Secretary for approval of such change.”.

7 **SEC. 104. ELIMINATION OF WAGE EARNING REQUIREMENT**  
8 **FOR SELF-EMPLOYMENT ON-JOB TRAINING.**

9 Section 3677(b) is amended by adding at the end the  
10 following new paragraph:

11 “(3) The requirement for certification under  
12 paragraph (1) shall not apply to training described  
13 in section 3452(e)(2).”.

14 **TITLE II—OTHER BENEFITS**  
15 **MATTERS**

16 **SEC. 201. STAYING OF CLAIMS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 is amended by insert-  
18 ing before section 502 the following new section:

19 **“§ 501A. Staying of claims**

20 “(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title,  
21 the Secretary may temporarily stay the adjudication of a  
22 claim or claims before the Board of Veterans' Appeals or  
23 an agency of original jurisdiction when the Secretary de-  
24 termines that the stay is necessary to preserve the integ-  
25 rity of a program administered under this title.

1       “(b) The Secretary shall issue regulations describing  
2 the factors the Secretary will consider in determining  
3 whether and to what extent a stay is warranted.

4       “(c) A claimant or claimants may petition for review  
5 of an action under a regulation prescribed in accordance  
6 with this section. Such review may be sought only in the  
7 United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit,  
8 which may set aside such action if it determines that the  
9 action is arbitrary and capricious.”.

10       (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
11 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting  
12 after the item relating to section 501 the following new  
13 item: “501A. Staying of claims.”.

14       (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The provisions of section  
15 501A, as added by subsection (a) of this section, shall  
16 apply to—

17           (1) any claim for benefits under any law admin-  
18 istered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that is  
19 received by the Department of Veterans Affairs on  
20 or after the date of enactment of this Act; and

21           (2) any claim for such benefits that was re-  
22 ceived by the Department of Veterans Affairs before  
23 the date of enactment of this Act but is not finally  
24 adjudicated by the Department as of that date.

1 **SEC. 202. MANAGEMENT OF BOARD OF VETERANS' AP-**  
 2 **PEALS DOCKET.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7107(a)(1) is amended by  
 4 inserting before the period at the end the following: “, but  
 5 the Board may consider and decide a particular case be-  
 6 fore another case with an earlier docket number if the ear-  
 7 lier case has been stayed, or if a decision on the earlier  
 8 case has been delayed for any reason and the later case  
 9 is fully developed and ready for decision”.

10 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
 11 subsection (a) of this section shall apply to—

12 (1) any claim for benefits under a law adminis-  
 13 tered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that is re-  
 14 ceived by the Department of Veterans Affairs on or  
 15 after the date of enactment of this Act; and

16 (2) any claim for such benefits that was re-  
 17 ceived by the Department of Veterans Affairs before  
 18 the date of enactment of this Act but is not finally  
 19 adjudicated by the Department as of that date.

20 **SEC. 203. AUTHORIZATION OF MEMORIAL HEADSTONES**  
 21 **AND MARKERS FOR DECEASED REMARRIED**  
 22 **SURVIVING SPOUSES OF VETERANS.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2306(b)(4)(B) is amend-  
 24 ed by striking “an unremarried surviving spouse whose  
 25 subsequent remarriage was terminated by death or di-

1 voice” and inserting “a surviving spouse who had a subse-  
2 quent remarriage”.

3 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by  
4 this section shall apply to deaths occurring on or after the  
5 date of the enactment of this Act.

6 **SEC. 204. PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR VA TO FUND CON-**  
7 **TRACT MEDICAL DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS.**

8 (a) **REPEAL OF EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY TO**  
9 **FUND CONTRACT MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS USING AP-**  
10 **PROPRIATED FUNDS.**—Section 704 of the Veterans Bene-  
11 fits Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–183; 117 Stat. 2651;  
12 38 U.S.C. 5101 note), is amended—

13 (1) by striking subsection (c);

14 (2) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-  
15 section (c); and

16 (3) by striking “**TEMPORARY**” from the head-  
17 ing of section 704.

18 **SEC. 205. MODIFICATION OF SERVICEMEMBERS’ GROUP**  
19 **LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE.**

20 (a) **EXPANSION OF SERVICEMEMBERS’ GROUP LIFE**  
21 **INSURANCE TO INCLUDE CERTAIN MEMBERS OF INDI-**  
22 **VIDUAL READY RESERVE.**—

23 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subparagraph (C) of section  
24 1967(a)(1) is amended by striking “section

1 1965(5)(B) of this title” and inserting “subpara-  
2 graph (B) or (C) of section 1965(5) of this title”.

3 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

4 (A) Subparagraph (C) of section  
5 1967(a)(5) is amended by striking “section  
6 1965(5)(B) of this title” and inserting “sub-  
7 paragraph (B) or (C) of section 1965(5) of this  
8 title”; and

9 (B) Subparagraph (B) of section  
10 1969(g)(1) is amended by striking “section  
11 1965(5)(B) of this title” and inserting “sub-  
12 paragraph (B) or (C) of section 1965(5) of this  
13 title”.

14 (b) REDUCTION IN PERIOD OF DEPENDENTS’ COV-  
15 ERAGE AFTER MEMBER SEPARATES.—Section  
16 1968(a)(5)(B)(ii) is amended by striking “120 days  
17 after”.

18 (c) AUTHORITY TO SET PREMIUMS FOR READY RE-  
19 SERVISTS’ SPOUSES.—Section 1969(g)(1)(B) is amended  
20 by striking “(which shall be the same for all such mem-  
21 bers)”.

22 (d) FORFEITURE OF VETERANS’ GROUP LIFE INSUR-  
23 ANCE.—Section 1973 is amended by striking “under this  
24 subchapter” and inserting “and Veterans’ Group Life In-  
25 surance under this subchapter”.

1 (e) EFFECTIVE AND APPLICABILITY DATES.—

2 (1) The amendments made by subsection (a) of  
3 this section shall take effect on the date of enact-  
4 ment of this Act.

5 (2) The amendment made by subsection (b) of  
6 this section shall apply with respect to  
7 Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage for  
8 an insurable dependent of a member, as defined in  
9 section 1965(10) of title 38, United States Code,  
10 that begins on or after the date of enactment of this  
11 Act.

12 (3) The amendment made by subsection (c) of  
13 this section shall take effect as if enacted on June  
14 5, 2001, immediately after the enactment of the Vet-  
15 erans' Survivor Benefits Improvements Act of 2001  
16 (Public Law 107–14; 115 Stat. 25).

17 (4) The amendment made by subsection (d) of  
18 this section shall apply with respect to any act of  
19 mutiny, treason, spying, or desertion committed on  
20 or after the date of enactment of this Act for which  
21 a person is found guilty, or with respect to refusal  
22 because of conscientious objections to perform serv-  
23 ice in, or to wear the uniform of, the United States  
24 Armed Forces on or after the date of enactment of  
25 this Act.

1 **SEC. 206. PERMIT VA TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY RESIDENCE**  
2 **ASSISTANCE GRANTS TO CERTAIN ACTIVE**  
3 **DUTY SERVICEMEMBERS.**

4 Section 2101(c) is amended to read as follows:

5 “(c) The Secretary may provide assistance under this  
6 chapter to a member of the Armed Forces serving on ac-  
7 tive duty who is suffering from a disability described in  
8 this section if such disability is the result of an injury in-  
9 curred or disease contracted in or aggravated in line of  
10 duty in the active military, naval, or air service. Such as-  
11 sistance shall be provided to the same extent, and subject  
12 to the same limitations, as assistance is provided to vet-  
13 erans under this chapter.”.

14 **SEC. 207. DESIGNATION OF VA OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS**  
15 **PROGRAMS.**

16 The Office of Small Business Programs of the De-  
17 partment of Veterans Affairs is the office that is estab-  
18 lished within the Office of the Secretary of Veterans Af-  
19 fairs under section 15(k) of the Small Business Act (15  
20 U.S.C. 644(k)). The Director of Small Business Programs  
21 is the head of such office.

22 **TITLE III—HEALTH CARE**  
23 **MATTERS**

24 **SEC. 301. NONINSTITUTIONAL EXTENDED CARE SERVICES.**

25 (a) Section 1701(10) is repealed.

26 (b) Section 1701(6) is amended—

1           (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) and  
2           (F) as (F) and (G), respectively; and

3           (2) by adding the following new subparagraph  
4           (E):

5                   “(E) Noninstitutional extended care serv-  
6                   ices, including alternatives to institutional ex-  
7                   tended care which the Secretary may furnish (i)  
8                   directly, (ii) by contract, or (iii) (through provi-  
9                   sion of case management) by another provider  
10                   or payor.”.

11 **SEC. 302. EXTENSIONS OF CERTAIN AUTHORITIES.**

12           (a) NURSING HOME CARE.—Subsection (c) of section  
13 1710A is amended by striking “December 31, 2008” and  
14 inserting “December 31, 2013”.

15           (b) RESEARCH CORPORATIONS.—Section 7368 is  
16 amended by striking “December 31, 2008” and inserting  
17 “December 31, 2013”.

18           (c) RECOVERY AUDITS.—Section 1703(d) is amended  
19 in paragraph (4) by striking “September 30, 2008” and  
20 inserting “September 30, 2013”.

1 **SEC. 303. PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR VETERANS WHO**  
2 **PARTICIPATED IN CERTAIN CHEMICAL AND**  
3 **BIOLOGICAL TESTING CONDUCTED BY THE**  
4 **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**

5 Subsection (e) of section 1710 is amended by striking  
6 paragraph (3)(D).

7 **SEC. 304. REPEAL OF CERTAIN ANNUAL REPORTING RE-**  
8 **QUIREMENTS.**

9 (a) NURSE PAY REPORT.—Section 7451 is amended  
10 by—

11 (1) striking subsection (f); and

12 (2) redesignating subsection (g) as subsection  
13 (f).

14 (b) LONG-TERM PLANNING REPORT.—Section 8107  
15 is repealed.

16 **SEC. 305. AMENDMENTS TO ANNUAL GULF WAR RESEARCH**  
17 **REPORT.**

18 Section 707 of the Persian Gulf War Veterans'  
19 Health Status Act (title VII of Public Law 102–585; 106  
20 Stat. 4943; 38 U.S.C. 527 note) is amended in subsection  
21 (c)(1), by striking “Not later than March 1 of each year”  
22 and inserting “Not later than July 1, 2008, and July 1  
23 of each of the five following years”.

1 **SEC. 306. PAYMENT FOR CARE FURNISHED TO CHAMPVA**  
2 **BENEFICIARIES.**

3 Section 1781 is amended at the end by adding the  
4 following new subsection:

5 “(e) Payment by the Secretary under this section on  
6 behalf of a covered beneficiary for medical care shall con-  
7 stitute payment in full and extinguish any liability on the  
8 part of the beneficiary for that care.”.

9 **SEC. 307. PAYOR PROVISIONS FOR CARE FURNISHED TO**  
10 **CERTAIN CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS.**

11 (a) CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS BORN WITH  
12 SPINA BIFIDA.—Section 1803 is amended—

13 (1) by redesignating subsection (c) as (d); and

14 (2) by inserting new subsection (c) as follows:

15 “(c) Where payment by the Secretary under this sec-  
16 tion is less than the amount of the charges billed, the  
17 health care provider or agent of the health care provider  
18 may seek payment for the difference between the amount  
19 billed and the amount paid by the Secretary from a re-  
20 sponsible third party to the extent that the provider or  
21 agent thereof would be eligible to receive payment for such  
22 care or services from such third party, but—

23 “(1) the health care provider or agent for the  
24 health care provider may not impose any additional  
25 charge on the beneficiary who received the medical  
26 care, or the family of such beneficiary, for any serv-

1 ice or item for which the Secretary has made pay-  
2 ment under this section;

3 “(2) the total amount of payment a provider or  
4 agent of the provider may receive for care and serv-  
5 ices furnished under this section may not exceed the  
6 amount billed to the Secretary; and

7 “(3) the Secretary, upon request, shall disclose  
8 to such third party information received for the pur-  
9 poses of carrying out this section.”.

10 (b) CHILDREN OF WOMEN VIETNAM VETERANS  
11 BORN WITH BIRTH DEFECTS.—Section 1813 is amend-  
12 ed—

13 (1) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-  
14 section (d); and

15 (2) by inserting new subsection (c) as follows:

16 “(c) Where payment by the Secretary under this sec-  
17 tion is less than the amount of the charges billed, the  
18 health care provider or agent of the health care provider  
19 may seek payment for the difference between the amount  
20 billed and the amount paid by the Secretary from a re-  
21 sponsible third party to the extent that the health care  
22 provider or agent thereof would be eligible to receive pay-  
23 ment for such care or services from such third party,  
24 but—

1           “(1) the health care provider or agent for the  
2 health care provider may not impose any additional  
3 charge on the beneficiary who received medical care,  
4 or the family of such beneficiary, for any service or  
5 item for which the Secretary has made payment  
6 under this section;

7           “(2) the total amount of payment a provider or  
8 agent of the provider may receive for care and serv-  
9 ices furnished under this section may not exceed the  
10 amount billed to the Secretary; and

11           “(3) the Secretary, upon request, shall disclose  
12 to such third party information received for the pur-  
13 poses of carrying out this section.”.

14 **SEC. 308. DISCLOSURES FROM CERTAIN MEDICAL**  
15 **RECORDS.**

16           Section 7332(b)(2) of such title is amended by adding  
17 at the end thereof the following new subparagraph:

18           “(F)(i) To a representative of a patient  
19 who lacks decision-making capacity, when a  
20 practitioner deems the content of the given  
21 record necessary for that representative to  
22 make an informed decision regarding the pa-  
23 tient’s treatment.

24           “(ii) In this subparagraph, the term ‘rep-  
25 resentative’ means an individual, organization

1 or other body authorized under section 7331 of  
2 this title and its implementing regulations to  
3 give informed consent on behalf of a patient  
4 who lacks decision-making capacity.”.

5 **SEC. 309. PROVISION OF HEALTH-PLAN CONTRACT INFOR-**  
6 **MATION AND SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER.**

7 Subchapter I of chapter 17 of title 38, United States  
8 Code, is amended—

9 (1) by adding at the end the following new sec-  
10 tion:

11 **“§ 1709. Provision of health-plan contract informa-**  
12 **tion and Social Security number**

13 “(a) Any individual who applies for or is in receipt  
14 of any hospital, nursing home, or domiciliary care; med-  
15 ical, rehabilitative, or preventive health services; or other  
16 medical care under laws administered by the Secretary  
17 shall, at the time of such application, or otherwise when  
18 requested by the Secretary, furnish the Secretary with  
19 such current information as the Secretary may require to  
20 identify any health-plan contract, as defined in section  
21 1729(i)(1) of this title, under which such individual is cov-  
22 ered, to include, as applicable, the name, address, and tele-  
23 phone number of such health-plan contract; the name of  
24 the individual’s spouse, if the individual’s coverage is

1 under the spouse's health-plan contract; the plan number,  
2 and the plan's group code.

3       “(b) Any individual who applies for or is in receipt  
4 of any hospital, nursing home, or domiciliary care; med-  
5 ical, rehabilitative, or preventive health services; or other  
6 medical care and services under laws administered by the  
7 Secretary shall, at the time of such application, or other-  
8 wise when requested by the Secretary, furnish the Sec-  
9 retary with the individual's Social Security number and  
10 the Social Security number of any dependent or Depart-  
11 ment of Veterans Affairs' beneficiary on whose behalf, or  
12 based upon whom, such individual applies for or is in re-  
13 ceipt of such benefit. This subsection does not require an  
14 individual to furnish the Secretary with a Social Security  
15 number for any individual to whom a Social Security num-  
16 ber has not been assigned.

17       “(c) The Secretary shall deny the individual's appli-  
18 cation for, or may terminate the individual's enrollment  
19 in, the system of patient enrollment established by the  
20 Secretary under section 1705 of this title, if the individual  
21 does not provide the Social Security number required or  
22 requested to be furnished pursuant to subsection (b) of  
23 this section. The Secretary, following such denial or termi-  
24 nation, may, upon receipt of the information required or  
25 requested under subsection (b), approve the individual's

1 application or reinstate the individual’s enrollment (if oth-  
 2 erwise in order), for such medical care and services pro-  
 3 vided on and after the date of such receipt of information.

4 “(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed as au-  
 5 thority to deny medical care and treatment to an indi-  
 6 vidual in a medical emergency.”; and

7 (2) by amending the table of sections for such  
 8 subchapter by adding at the end thereof the fol-  
 9 lowing new item: “§ 1709. Provision of health-plan  
 10 contract information and Social Security number.”.

## 11 **TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS** 12 **PROVISIONS**

### 13 **SEC. 401. EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY FOR DEPARTMENT OF** 14 **VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICE OFFICERS.**

15 Section 902 is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (a)—

17 (A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as  
 18 follows:

19 “(1) Employees of the Department who are De-  
 20 partment police officers shall, with respect to acts  
 21 occurring on Department property—

22 “(A) enforce Federal laws;

23 “(B) enforce the rules prescribed under  
 24 section 901 of this title;

1           “(C) enforce traffic and motor vehicle laws  
2 of a State or local government within the juris-  
3 diction of which such Department property is  
4 located as authorized by an express grant of au-  
5 thority under applicable State or local law. Any  
6 such enforcement shall be by issuance of a cita-  
7 tion for violation of such law;

8           “(D) carry the appropriate VA-issued  
9 weapons, including firearms, while off Depart-  
10 ment property in an official capacity or while in  
11 an official travel status;

12           “(E) conduct investigations, on and off  
13 Department property, of offenses that may have  
14 been committed on property under the original  
15 jurisdiction of VA, consistent with agreements  
16 or other consultation with affected local, State,  
17 or Federal law enforcement agencies; and

18           “(F) carry out, as needed and appropriate,  
19 the duties described in subparagraphs (A)–(E)  
20 of this subsection when engaged in duties au-  
21 thorized by other Federal statutes.”; and

22           (B) by striking paragraph (2) and renum-  
23 bering paragraph (3) as paragraph (2) and  
24 adding “, and on any arrest warrant issued by

1           competent judicial authority” before the period;

2           and

3           (2) by amending subsection (c) to read:

4           “(c) The powers granted to Department police offi-  
5 cers designated under this section shall be exercised in ac-  
6 cordance with guidelines approved by the Secretary and  
7 the Attorney General.”.

8 **SEC. 402. UNIFORM ALLOWANCE FOR DEPARTMENT OF**  
9 **VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICE OFFICERS.**

10          Section 903 is amended—

11           (1) by striking the matter in subsection (b) and  
12          inserting:

13           “(b) The amount of the allowance that the Secretary  
14 may pay under this section will be the lesser of—

15           “(1) the amount currently allowed as prescribed  
16          by the Office of Personnel Management; or

17           “(2) estimated costs or actual costs as deter-  
18          mined by periodic surveys conducted by the Depart-  
19          ment.

20          During any fiscal year no officer will receive more than  
21          the amount established under this subsection.”; and

22           (2) by striking the matter in subsection (c) and  
23          inserting:

24           “(c) The allowance established under subsection (b)  
25 shall be paid at the beginning of a Department police offi-

1 cer's employment for those appointed on or after October  
2 1, 2008. In the case of any other Department police offi-  
3 cer, an allowance in the amount established under sub-  
4 section (b) shall be paid upon the request of the officer.”.

5 **SEC. 403. INCREASE IN THRESHOLD FOR MAJOR MEDICAL**  
6 **FACILITY LEASES REQUIRING CONGRES-**  
7 **SIONAL APPROVAL.**

8 Section 8104(a)(3)(B) is amended by striking  
9 “\$600,000” and inserting “\$1,000,000”.

○