

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6551

To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the payments or allowances that individuals, including veterans service organizations, receive for transportation of veterans to or from facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 1, 2023

Mr. LAWLER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the payments or allowances that individuals, including veterans service organizations, receive for transportation of veterans to or from facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Heroes Earned Afford-
5 able Lifts Act” or the “HEAL Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF PAYMENTS OR ALLOWANCES FOR**
2 **TRANSPORTATION OF VETERANS TO OR**
3 **FROM DEPARTMENT FACILITIES.**

4 (a) **MILAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE.**—Section 111
5 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “at a rate of
7 41.5 cents per mile” and inserting “at the rate pre-
8 scribed under subsection (g)”;

9 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “Except as
10 provided in subsection (c) of this section and not-
11 withstanding subsection (g)(2) of this section or”
12 and inserting “Notwithstanding”; and

13 (3) by amending subsection (g) to read as fol-
14 lows:

15 “(g) The Secretary shall set the mileage rate under
16 subsection (a) to be equal to the rate for a privately owned
17 automobile when no Government vehicle is available, as
18 prescribed by the Administrator of General Services under
19 section 5707(b) of title 5.”.

20 (b) **PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN DEDUCTIBLE PAY-**
21 **MENTS.**—Section 111(c) of such title is amended to read
22 as follows:

23 “(c) The Secretary may not require a deductible for
24 travel for examination, treatment, or care under this sec-
25 tion.”.

26 (c) **VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS.**—

1 (1) Section 111(e)(2)(B) of such title is amend-
2 ed—

3 (A) by striking “subparagraph is” and all
4 that follows and inserting “subparagraph is—”;
5 and

6 (B) by adding at the end the following new
7 clauses:

8 “(i) a provider of personal care services for
9 such veteran who is approved under paragraph (6)
10 of section 1720G(a) of this title or designated under
11 paragraph (7) of such section 1720G(a);

12 “(ii) a veterans service organization that pro-
13 vides transportation for such veteran under section
14 111A of this title; or

15 “(iii) a veterans service agency of a local gov-
16 ernment, including an employee or a volunteer of
17 such agency, that provides transportation for such
18 veteran.”.

19 (2) Section 111A(b) of such title is amended—

20 (A) by striking “veterans’ service” and in-
21 sserting “veterans service”; and

22 (B) by striking “, without reimbursement
23 from the Department,” and inserting “(reim-

1 bursable by the Department only to the extent
2 allowable under section 111 of this title)".

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