U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN JERRY MORAN

Changes to the Take Care of America's Veterans Act

Chairman Moran's amendment to H.R. 9237 preserves key improvements for tens of millions of veterans, caregivers, and survivors in the 60-bill legislative package that includes the *Major Richard Star Act*, the *Love Lives On Act*, the *Veterans' ACCESS Act*, and the *Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act*. It improves Section 108 by restoring VA regulatory authority for future ratings changes and preserving tinnitus as a standalone rating. The new text also eliminates the increased funding fee rate for VA refinance loans and removes new funding for VA information technology investments and housing allowance increases for online study programs. These changes allow for the inclusion of $461 million for 70 State Veterans Home projects in 25 states as well as the removal of the pay cap for certain VA clinicians.

What's New:

Sleep Apnea and Tinnitus Ratings: Adjusts the effective date of proposed disability rating changes to January 1, 2027, preserves standalone tinnitus ratings, and restores VA regulatory authority to make changes to the ratings schedule for sleep apnea and tinnitus after 10 years.

VA Home Loans: Removes proposed increases to certain VA home loan refinancing and assumption fees.

More funding for State Veterans Homes: Adds $461 million to help states build, renovate, and improve State Veterans Homes. Combined with other available funds, this would allow VA to fund all projects on its fiscal year2027 highest-priority list, covering 70 projects in 25 states.

More flexibility in clinician pay: Removes the limit on the number of special pay waivers VA can grant to certain clinicians, allowing VA to offer more competitive compensation to recruit and retain high-quality providers to care for veteran patients.

What's Preserved:

Major Richard Star Act: Allows combat-disabled military retirees to receive both retired pay and VA disability in the same manner as retirees who served 20 or more years, including for Guard and Reserve Chapter 61 retirees.

Love Lives On Act: Allows surviving spouses who remarry before age 55, including cases involving deaths occurring during inactive-duty training, to keep survivor benefits.

Veterans' ACCESS Act: Codifies access standards for community care eligibility and provides more timely access to residential treatment for veterans in need of intensive mental health and substance use disorder care.

Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act: Increases Special Monthly Compensation for severely disabled veterans by $10,000 per year and increases the rate of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) by 1% on top of the annual Consumer Price Index increase for three years.