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(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to transport individuals to and from facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs in connection with rehabilitation, counseling, examination, treatment, and care, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LARSEN of Washington introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to transport individuals to and from facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs in connection with rehabilitation, counseling, examination, treatment, and care, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Rural Veterans Travel  
3 Enhancement Act of 2015”.

4 **SEC. 2. MAKING PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR SECRETARY**  
5 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO TRANSPORT INDI-**  
6 **VIDUALS TO AND FROM FACILITIES OF DE-**  
7 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

8 Section 111A(a) of title 38, United States Code, is  
9 amended—

10 (1) by striking paragraph (2); and

11 (2) in paragraph (1), by striking “(1)”.

12 **SEC. 3. TREATMENT OF VET CENTERS AS DEPARTMENT OF**  
13 **VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES FOR PUR-**  
14 **POSES OF PAYMENTS OR ALLOWANCES FOR**  
15 **BENEFICIARY TRAVEL.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 111 of title 38, United  
17 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
18 lowing new subsection:

19 “(h)(1) Vet Centers shall be treated as Department  
20 facilities for purposes of providing payment of actual ex-  
21 penses of travel or allowance for travel to or from a De-  
22 partment facility under this section.

23 “(2) In this subsection, the term ‘Vet Center’ means  
24 a center for readjustment counseling and related mental  
25 health services for veterans under section 1712A of this  
26 title.”.

1 (b) APPLICABILITY.—Section 111(h) of such title, as  
2 added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to travel  
3 occurring on or after the date of the enactment of this  
4 Act.

5 **SEC. 4. REAUTHORIZATION OF GRANTS FOR VETERANS**  
6 **SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS FOR TRANSPOR-**  
7 **TATION OF HIGHLY RURAL VETERANS.**

8 Section 307(d) of the Caregivers and Veterans Omni-  
9 bus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–163;  
10 38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is amended by striking “through  
11 2014” and inserting “through 2020”.