

(C) AUDITS.—The baseline of savings for purposes of the benchmarks required by subparagraph (A) shall be audited by the Government Accountability Office, the Nielsen Company, and an independent accounting firm.

(4) REQUIRED SAVINGS TO PATRONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that the level of savings for commissary patrons under any pilot program carried out under paragraph (1) is not less than the level of savings for such patrons before the implementation of the pilot program, as follows:

(i) Before commencing a pilot program under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall establish a baseline of savings for patrons at each commissary participating in the pilot program by comparing prices charged by the commissary for a representative market basket of goods to prices charged by local competitors for the same market basket of goods.

(ii) After implementing a pilot program under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure that each commissary or private sector entity participating in the pilot program—

(I) conducts market-basket price comparisons not less frequently than once a month; and

(II) adjusts pricing as necessary to ensure that pricing achieves savings for patrons that are reasonably consistent with the baseline savings for the commissary established pursuant to clause (i).

(B) VERIFICATION.—The Secretary shall arrange to have the baseline of savings established under clause (i) of subparagraph (A) and the price comparisons and adjustments required by clause (ii) of that subparagraph validated by the Government Accountability Office, the Nielsen Company, and an independent accounting firm.

(5) WAIVER OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out a pilot program under paragraph (1), the Secretary may waive any requirement of chapter 147 of title 10, United States Code, that the Secretary determines necessary.

(6) DURATION OF AUTHORITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by subparagraph (B), the authority of the Secretary to carry out a pilot program under paragraph (1) shall expire on the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) EXTENSION.—If a pilot program carried out under paragraph (1) achieves budget-neutrality in the delivery of commissary and exchange benefits and meets other applicable benchmarks, as measured using the benchmarks required by paragraph (3), the Secretary may continue the pilot program for an additional period of not more than 10 years after the date described in subparagraph (A).

(7) REPORTS REQUIRED.—

(A) INITIAL REPORTS.—Not later than 30 days before commencing a pilot program under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program that includes the following:

(i) A description of the pilot program.

(ii) The provisions, if any, of chapter 147 of title 10, United States Code, that will be waived to carry out the pilot program.

(B) FINAL REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the completion of any pilot program carried out under paragraph (1) or the date of the commencement of an extension of a pilot program under paragraph (6)(B), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program that includes the following:

(i) A description and assessment of the pilot program.

(ii) Such recommendations for administrative or legislative action as the Secretary considers appropriate in light of the pilot program.

SA 2151. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . LIMITED EXCEPTION TO FUNDING PROHIBITION FOR FOREIGN SECURITY FORCES THAT HAVE COMMITTED A GROSS VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

Section 362(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “has taken all necessary corrective steps” and inserting “is taking effective steps”.

SA 2152. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Ms. HASSAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10 ____ . PERIODIC REVIEW OF AUTOMATIC MAXIMUM COVERAGE UNDER SERVICEMEMBERS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE AND VETERANS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 19 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 1980B. Periodic review of automatic maximum coverage

“(a) IN GENERAL.—On January 1, 2025, and every five years thereafter, the Secretary shall—

“(1) complete a review of how the amount specified in section 1967(a)(3)(A)(i) compares to the amount described in subsection (b); and

“(2) submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate the results of the review, which may serve as a guide for coverage increases within the existing administrative incremental structure.

“(b) AMOUNT DESCRIBED.—The amount described in this subsection is the amount equal to—

“(1) \$500,000; multiplied by

“(2) the average percentage by which the Consumer Price Index changed during the five fiscal years preceding the review under subsection (a).

“(c) CONSUMER PRICE INDEX DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘Consumer Price Index’ means the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 19 of such title is amended by inserting after the

item relating to section 1980A the following new item:

“1980B. Periodic review of automatic maximum coverage.”.

SA 2153. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title XII, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . INCREASED REPORTING REGARDING DEPARTMENT OF STATE TAIWAN GUIDELINES.

Section 315 of the Taiwan Assurance Act of 2020 (subtitle B of title III of division FF of Public Law 116-260; 134 Stat. 3100) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting “and any successor document or related document that includes guidance on relations with Taiwan” after “memorandum”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) PERIODIC REVIEWS AND UPDATED REPORTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For as long as the Department of State maintains guidance that governs relations with Taiwan as described in subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall—

“(A) not less than every four years, conduct a review of the Department of State's guidance that governs relations with Taiwan, including the periodic memorandum entitled, ‘Guidelines on Relations with Taiwan’ and related documents, and reissue such guidance to executive branch departments and agencies; and

“(B) not later than 90 days after completing a review required by paragraph (1)(A), submit an updated report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

“(2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The updated reports required under paragraph (1)(B) shall include—

“(A) all the information required under subsection (c);

“(B) a description of how the updated guidance meets the goals and objectives described in subsection (b); and

“(C) an identification of self-imposed restrictions on relations with Taiwan lifted by the Secretary of State in the most recent updated guidance, including the periodic memorandum entitled ‘Guidelines on Relations with Taiwan’ and related documents.”.

SA 2154. Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following: