

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7747

To amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline the certification process for State Veterans Homes by allowing certain facilities certified by the Department of Veterans Affairs to be deemed in compliance with specified Medicare and Medicaid requirements, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 2, 2026

Mr. BERGMAN (for himself, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. OWENS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline the certification process for State Veterans Homes by allowing certain facilities certified by the Department of Veterans Affairs to be deemed in compliance with specified Medicare and Medicaid requirements, 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 “State Veterans Homes
3 Inspection Simplification Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEEMING OF STATE VETERANS HOMES CERTIFIED**
5 **BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
6 **AS MEETING MEDICARE CONDITIONS OF PAR-**
7 **TICIPATION.**

8 (a) MEDICARE DEEMING AUTHORITY.—Section 1819
9 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i–3) is amended
10 by adding at the end the following new subsection:

11 “(l) SPECIAL RULE FOR STATE VETERANS
12 HOMES.—

13 “(1) DEEMED COMPLIANCE.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A State home (as de-
15 fined in section 101 of title 38, United States
16 Code) that is inspected and certified by the De-
17 partment of Veterans Affairs (in this subsection
18 referred to as the ‘VA’) in accordance with
19 standards approved by the Secretary shall be
20 deemed to meet the requirements of subsections
21 (b) through (i) of this section if the Secretary
22 determines that the following requirements are
23 met:

24 “(i) The VA provides the Secretary
25 with documentation of inspection and cer-
26 tification, which must include survey find-

ings, statements of deficiencies, and related corrective actions.

“(ii) Not less than once every 2 years, the VA submits its State home survey standards and inspection procedures for joint review with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to confirm continued alignment with Medicare Conditions of Participation, including oversight methodologies.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL OF STANDARDS.—In approving standards under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

“(i) consult with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and

“(ii) ensure that the inspection and certification process used by the VA, including both standards and enforcement practices—

“(I) includes, as a minimum, the survey protocols and enforcement expectations of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services; and

“(II) upholds, at a minimum, the same standards of resident care, safe-

1 ty, transparency, and accountability
2 required under this section.

3 “(2) OVERSIGHT AND ENFORCEMENT.—Noth-
4 ing in paragraph (1) shall preclude the Secretary
5 from doing any of the following:

6 “(A) Conducting complaint investigations
7 or targeted surveys of any State home.

8 “(B) Imposing remedies under subsection
9 (h), including civil monetary penalties or termi-
10 nation of participation under this title.

11 “(C) Revoking deemed status under para-
12 graph (1) if the VA certification process is
13 found to be inconsistent with Federal standards
14 of transparency, data quality, or enforcement.

15 “(3) PUBLIC REPORTING.—Survey and certifi-
16 cation data from VA inspections deemed valid under
17 this subsection shall be reported publicly through the
18 Nursing Home Care Compare website under sub-
19 section (i) or another publicly accessible platform in
20 a format determined by the Secretary, in consulta-
21 tion with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

22 “(4) CONGRESSIONAL NOTICE.—Not later than
23 15 days after—

24 “(A) approving standards under paragraph
25 (1);

1 “(B) revoking or suspending deemed sta-
2 tus under paragraph (2); or

3 “(C) identifying material non-alignment
4 between VA inspection practices and Medicare
5 Conditions of Participation;

6 the Secretary shall submit written notice to the
7 Committees on Veterans’ Affairs and Energy and
8 Commerce of the House of Representatives and the
9 Committees on Veterans’ Affairs and Finance of the
10 Senate.”.

11 (b) MEDICAID CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
12 1919 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r) is
13 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
14 section:

15 “(l) SPECIAL RULE FOR STATE VETERANS
16 HOMES.—The provisions of section 1819(l) shall apply
17 with respect to a nursing facility that is a State home (as
18 defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code)
19 and that is inspected and certified by the Department of
20 Veterans Affairs in the same manner and to the same ex-
21 tent as such provisions apply under title XVIII.”.

22 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
23 this section shall take effect on the date that is 90 days
24 after the date of enactment of this Act.

1 (d) DEFINITION OF ENFORCEMENT EXPECTA-
 2 TIONS.—The term “Enforcement expectations” means de-
 3 ficiency citations, corrective action plans, and remedies in
 4 response to individual deficiencies or repeat-deficiency
 5 rates that are as effective as or more effective than, and
 6 in lieu of, those resulting from surveys conducted directly
 7 by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

8 **SEC. 3. ALIGNMENT OF DATA FOR PUBLIC REPORTING.**

9 (a) VA SURVEY DATA ON NURSING HOME CARE
 10 COMPARE.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services
 11 shall coordinate with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to
 12 ensure that inspection findings, deficiency statements, and
 13 quality metrics from Department of Veterans Affairs-cer-
 14 tified State homes (as defined in section 101 of title 38,
 15 United States Code) are incorporated into the Nursing
 16 Home Care Compare website (or a successor website), to
 17 the extent feasible and consistent with section 1819(g)(5)
 18 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i–3(g)(5)), and
 19 in a manner consistent with the risk-adjustment and case-
 20 mix methodologies otherwise used by the Centers for
 21 Medicare & Medicaid Services for public reporting of nurs-
 22 ing facility quality measures.

23 (b) HARMONIZATION OF SURVEY PROCESSES.—Not
 24 later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this
 25 section, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in

1 consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall
2 issue guidance to align certification and data reporting
3 processes to ensure consistency and transparency in the
4 public reporting of quality and compliance information for
5 State homes (as so defined).

6 **SEC. 4. GAO REVIEW OF DEEMING AUTHORITY.**

7 Not later than 3 years after the effective date of this
8 Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall
9 submit a report to the Congress evaluating—

- 10 (1) the impact of deeming authority on survey
11 efficiency and costs;
- 12 (2) comparative enforcement outcomes between
13 VA-conducted and CMS-conducted surveys;
- 14 (3) quality of care and safety outcomes for resi-
15 dents of State Veterans Homes; and
- 16 (4) any recommendations for legislative or ad-
17 ministrative action.

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