

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 372

To provide for a pilot program to be conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs to assess the benefits of providing for pharmacies of the Department of Veterans Affairs to fill prescriptions for drugs and medicines written by private physicians.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 2003

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

A BILL

To provide for a pilot program to be conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs to assess the benefits of providing for pharmacies of the Department of Veterans Affairs to fill prescriptions for drugs and medicines written by private physicians.

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. PILOT PROGRAM FOR DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
2 **ERANS AFFAIRS PHARMACIES TO DISPENSE**
3 **MEDICATIONS TO VETERANS ON PRESCRIP-**
4 **TIONS WRITTEN BY PRIVATE PRACTI-**
5 **TIONERS.**

6 (a) **PILOT PROGRAM.**—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
7 fairs shall conduct a pilot program to assess the advan-
8 tages and disadvantages of furnishing to veterans through
9 Department of Veterans Affairs pharmacies drugs and
10 medicines ordered on prescription of any duly licensed
11 physician in the treatment of any illness or injury of a
12 veteran.

13 (b) **LOCATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.**—The pilot pro-
14 gram shall be conducted through health-care facilities of
15 the Department of Veterans Affairs located in the service
16 region of the Veterans Health Administration designated
17 as Veterans Integrated Service Network 1 (“VISN 1”).

18 (c) **DURATION OF PROGRAM.**—The pilot program
19 shall be conducted during the two-year period beginning
20 on the date of the enactment of this Act.

21 (d) **CONDUCT OF PROGRAM.**—Under the pilot pro-
22 gram, the Secretary shall provide for health-care facilities
23 of the Department of Veterans Affairs in the area speci-
24 fied in subsection (b) to furnish to a veteran such drugs
25 and medicines as may be ordered on prescription of a duly

1 licensed physician in the treatment of any illness or injury
2 of the veteran.

3 (e) REQUIRED COPAYMENT.—The furnishing of
4 drugs and medicines under the pilot program shall be sub-
5 ject to the copayment requirement in section 1722A of
6 title 38, United States Code.

7 (f) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the end
8 of the pilot program under this section, the Secretary shall
9 submit to Congress a report on the pilot program. The
10 Secretary shall include in the report the following:

11 (1) The Secretary’s assessment of the benefits
12 to veterans of the pilot program.

13 (2) The Secretary’s assessment of the effect of
14 the pilot program on the Department of Veterans
15 Affairs, including the effect on delivery of health
16 care to veterans.

17 (3) Any other findings and conclusions of the
18 Secretary with respect to the pilot program.

19 (4) Any recommendations of the Secretary for
20 continuation of the pilot program or for extension of
21 the pilot program to other service regions or to all
22 service regions.

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