

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1112

To amend title 38, United States Code, to permit Department of Veterans Affairs pharmacies to dispense medications on prescriptions written by private practitioners to veterans who are currently awaiting their first appointment with the Department for medical care, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 2003

Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. HARKIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to permit Department of Veterans Affairs pharmacies to dispense medications on prescriptions written by private practitioners to veterans who are currently awaiting their first appointment with the Department for medical 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans’ Prescription
5 Drug Reform Act of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
2 **FAIRS PHARMACIES TO DISPENSE MEDICA-**
3 **TIONS TO CERTAIN VETERANS FOR PRE-**
4 **SCRIPTIONS WRITTEN BY PRIVATE PRACTI-**
5 **TIONERS.**

6 (a) AUTHORITY TO DISPENSE MEDICATIONS TO
7 CERTAIN VETERANS.—Section 1712 of title 38, United
8 States Code, is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
10 section (f); and

11 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
12 lowing new subsection (e):

13 “(e)(1) The Secretary may authorize the pharmacies
14 of the Department to dispense medications to a veteran
15 described in paragraph (2) pursuant to a valid prescrip-
16 tion of the veteran written by a private practitioner.

17 “(2) A veteran described in this paragraph is any vet-
18 eran who is on a waiting list for such veteran’s first ap-
19 pointment with the Department for medical services as of
20 the date of the enactment of this section.

21 “(3) A veteran dispensed a medication under this
22 subsection shall pay the Secretary an amount for such
23 medication determined in accordance with the provisions
24 of section 1722A(a) of this title.

1 “(4) Any amounts paid under paragraph (3) shall be
2 deposited in the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical
3 Care Collections Fund.”.

4 (b) DEPOSIT OF COLLECTIONS.—Section 1729A(b)
5 of such title is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through
7 (8) as paragraphs (5) through (9), respectively; and

8 (2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
9 lowing new paragraph (4):

10 “(4) Section 1712(e) of this title.”.

11 (c) REPORT.—(1) Not later than one year after the
12 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
13 erans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’
14 Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives
15 a report on the exercise by the Secretary of the authority
16 provided in subsection (e) of section 1712 of title 38,
17 United States Code (as amended by subsection (a) of this
18 section).

19 (2) The report shall include—

20 (A) a description of the exercise of the author-
21 ity by the Secretary; and

22 (B) such recommendations for additional legis-
23 lative or administrative action with respect to the

- 1 authority as the Secretary considers appropriate in
- 2 light of the exercise of the authority.

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