

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6580

To amend title 5, United States Code, to allow veterans who receive health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs to be eligible for supplemental dental and vision insurance under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 26, 2012

Ms. FUDGE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on 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 title 5, United States Code, to allow veterans who receive health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs to be eligible for supplemental dental and vision insurance under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

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 Dental and
5 Vision Benefits Act of 2012”.

1 **SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY OF VETERANS FOR SUPPLEMENTAL**
2 **DENTAL AND VISION INSURANCE.**

3 (a) DENTAL BENEFITS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 8951 of title 5,
5 United States Code, is amended—

6 (A) in paragraph (3)—

7 (i) by inserting “or a covered veteran
8 described in paragraph (8)” after “para-
9 graph (1) or (2)”; and

10 (ii) by inserting “or the covered vet-
11 eran” after “the individual”; and

12 (B) by adding at the end the following new
13 paragraph:

14 “(8) The term ‘covered veteran’ means a vet-
15 eran who is enrolled in the health care system estab-
16 lished under section 1705(a) of title 38.”.

17 (2) PREMIUM SUPPORT FOR VETERANS FACING
18 HARDSHIP.—Section 8958(a) of title 5, United
19 States Code, is amended—

20 (A) by striking “Each eligible” and insert-
21 ing “(1) Except as provided by paragraph (2),
22 each eligible”; and

23 (B) by adding at the end the following new
24 paragraph:

25 “(2) If the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines
26 that a covered veteran obtaining supplemental dental cov-

1 erage under this chapter is unable to pay the premiums
2 described in paragraph (1) because of financial hardship,
3 such veteran shall not be responsible for any of such pre-
4 miums.”.

5 (b) VISION BENEFITS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 8981 of title 5,
7 United States Code, is amended—

8 (A) in paragraph (3)—

9 (i) by inserting “or a covered veteran
10 described in paragraph (8)” after “para-
11 graph (1) or (2)”; and

12 (ii) by inserting “or the covered vet-
13 eran” after “the individual”; and

14 (B) by adding at the end the following new
15 paragraph:

16 “(8) The term ‘covered veteran’ means a vet-
17 eran who is enrolled in the health care system estab-
18 lished under section 1705(a) of title 38.”.

19 (2) PREMIUM SUPPORT FOR VETERANS FACING
20 HARDSHIP.—Section 8988(a) of title 5, United
21 States Code, is amended—

22 (A) by striking “Each eligible” and insert-
23 ing “(1) Except as provided by paragraph (2),
24 each eligible”; and

1 (B) by adding at the end the following new
2 paragraph:

3 “(2) If the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines
4 that a covered veteran obtaining supplemental vision cov-
5 erage under this chapter is unable to pay the premiums
6 described in paragraph (1) because of financial hardship,
7 such veteran shall not be responsible for any of such pre-
8 miums.”.

9 (c) COOPERATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
10 fairs shall cooperate with the Director of the Office of Per-
11 sonnel Management to ensure that a veteran who is en-
12 rolled in the health care system established under section
13 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, is eligible for the
14 supplemental dental and vision insurance benefits under
15 chapters 89A and 89B of title 5, United States Code.

16 (d) OUTREACH.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
17 may conduct outreach to inform veterans of the supple-
18 mental dental and vision insurance provided to veterans
19 under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program
20 pursuant to chapters 89A and 89B of title 5, United
21 States Code, as amended by this section.

22 (e) REPORTS.—Once during each three-year period
23 beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and
24 ending on the date that is nine years after the date of
25 such enactment, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall

1 submit to Congress a report on the implementation of pro-
2 viding veterans with supplemental dental and vision insur-
3 ance under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Pro-
4 gram pursuant to chapters 89A and 89B of title 5, United
5 States Code, as amended by this section.

6 (f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
7 this section shall take effect 180 days after the date of
8 the enactment of this Act.

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