

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5131

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reimburse non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical providers for the provision of certain hospital care and medical services to veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 17, 2014

Ms. GABBARD (for herself and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reimburse non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical providers for the provision of certain hospital care and medical services to veterans, 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 “Access to Care and
5 Treatment Now for Veterans Act” or the “ACT Now for
6 Veterans Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REIMBURSEMENT OF NON-DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
2 **ERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL PROVIDERS FOR**
3 **THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN HOSPITAL CARE**
4 **AND MEDICAL SERVICES TO VETERANS.**

5 (a) REIMBURSEMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of
6 Veterans Affairs shall reimburse any non-Department
7 medical provider, including such a provider who has not
8 been pre-approved by the Secretary, who furnishes covered
9 hospital care or medical services to an eligible veteran.

10 (b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

11 (1) The term “eligible veteran” means a vet-
12 eran who—

13 (A) is enrolled in the patient enrollment
14 system under section 1705 of title 38, United
15 States Code, and provides a Department of Vet-
16 erans Affairs identification card or proof of
17 such enrollment;

18 (B) is eligible to receive hospital care or
19 medical services furnished by the Secretary of
20 Veterans Affairs; and

21 (C) attempts or has attempted to schedule
22 an appointment at a Department of Veterans
23 Affairs facility to receive such care or services
24 but has been unable to schedule such appoint-
25 ment within 30 days of the date preferred by
26 the veteran.

1 (2) The term “covered hospital care or medical
2 services” means, with respect to an eligible veteran,
3 hospital care or medical services (as such terms are
4 defined in section 1701 of title 38, United States
5 Code) for which the veteran is eligible under chapter
6 17 of title 38, United States Code.

7 (c) TERMINATION.—The authority under this section
8 shall terminate on—

9 (1) in the case that, before the date that is one
10 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
11 Secretary submits to Congress certification that the
12 Veterans Health Administration is meeting wait-time
13 goals established by the Secretary, the date that is
14 one year after the date of the enactment of this Act;
15 or

16 (2) in the case that the Secretary does not sub-
17 mit such certification before such date, the date that
18 is two years after the date of the enactment of this
19 Act.

20 (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall begin
21 implementing this section on the date of the enactment
22 of this Act.

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