

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5193

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct outreach to veterans regarding the effect of delayed payments by the Veterans Integrated Service Networks and to direct the Secretary to submit to Congress an annual report regarding such delayed payments.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 24, 2014

Mr. BOUSTANY (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MCALLISTER, Mr. SCALISE, and Mr. RICHMOND) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct outreach to veterans regarding the effect of delayed payments by the Veterans Integrated Service Networks and to direct the Secretary to submit to Congress an annual report regarding such delayed payments.

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’ Credit Pro-
5 tection Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. OUTREACH TO VETERANS REGARDING EFFECT OF**
2 **DELAYED PAYMENTS BY VETERANS INTE-**
3 **GRATED SERVICE NETWORKS.**

4 (a) OUTREACH.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
5 shall conduct outreach, including through national and
6 local veterans service organizations, to inform veterans of
7 how to resolve credit issues caused by a delayed payment.
8 The Secretary shall establish a toll-free telephone number
9 for veterans to report such credit issues to the Veterans
10 Integrated Service Networks.

11 (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
13 Affairs shall annually submit to Congress a report
14 on the effectiveness of each Veterans Integrated
15 Service Network in providing timely payment of a
16 proper invoice by the required payment date during
17 both the five-year period preceding the date of the
18 report and the one-year period preceding such date.

19 (2) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The reports under
20 paragraph (1) shall include, for each period covered
21 by the report, the following:

22 (A) The number of veterans who contacted
23 the Secretary regarding a delayed payment that
24 negatively affected, or will potentially negatively
25 affect, the credit of the veteran.

1 (B) The total amount of interest penalties
2 paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under
3 section 3902 of title 31, United States Code, by
4 reason of a delayed payment.

5 (C) The number of proper invoices sub-
6 mitted, listed in a table for each quarter and
7 fiscal year of each such period that includes—

8 (i) the total amount owed by the Sec-
9 retary under the proper invoices;

10 (ii) the payment status of each proper
11 invoice, as of the date of the report; and

12 (iii) the period that elapsed until each
13 proper invoice was paid, including an ex-
14 planation of any delayed payment.

15 (D) Any comments regarding delayed pay-
16 ments made by medical providers.

17 (E) An identification of the Veterans Inte-
18 grated Service Network with the least number
19 of delayed payments and the Veterans Inte-
20 grated Service Network with the most number
21 of delayed payments.

22 (F) A description of the best practices that
23 a Veterans Integrated Service Network can
24 carry out to provide timely payment of a proper
25 invoice, including a plan for underperforming

1 Veterans Integrated Service Networks to im-
2 prove such timely payments.

3 (c) COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of
5 the United States shall conduct a study that com-
6 pares the effectiveness of each Veterans Integrated
7 Service Network in providing timely payment of a
8 proper invoice by the required payment date.

9 (2) SUBMITTAL.—The Comptroller General
10 shall submit to Congress a report on the study con-
11 ducted under paragraph (1), including the total
12 amount of interest penalties paid by the Secretary of
13 Veterans Affairs under section 3902 of title 31,
14 United States Code, by reason of a delayed payment.

15 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) The term “delayed payment” means a prop-
17 er invoice that is not paid by the Secretary of Vet-
18 erans Affairs until after the required payment date.

19 (2) The term “proper invoice” has the meaning
20 given that term in section 3901(a) of title 31.

21 (3) The term “required payment date” means
22 the date that payment is due for a contract pursu-
23 ant to section 3903(a) of title 31.

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