

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6151

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to notify qualifying veterans of a covered change of service reducing or eliminating a medical service provided at a medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 19, 2018

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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to notify qualifying veterans of a covered change of service reducing or eliminating a medical service provided at a medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Veterans Awareness Act” or “VA Act of 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM TO NOTIFY QUALIFYING VET-**
2 **ERANS OF A COVERED CHANGE OF SERVICE.**

3 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
4 fairs shall carry out a three-year pilot program under
5 which the Secretary shall notify qualifying veterans of a
6 covered change of service.

7 (b) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 60 days prior to
8 making a covered change of service, the Secretary shall
9 mail to qualifying veterans at the physical address on file
10 with the Department of Veterans Affairs a letter notifying
11 the veteran of such change. Additionally, not later than
12 60 days prior to making a covered change of service, the
13 Secretary shall mail to the Congressional representative
14 a letter notifying them of such change in their district.

15 (c) SELECTION OF MEDICAL FACILITIES.—The Sec-
16 retary shall select medical facilities of the Department at
17 which to carry out the pilot program, of which 50 percent
18 shall be located in rural areas and 50 percent shall be lo-
19 cated in urban areas.

20 (d) FORUM.—Not later than 30 days prior to making
21 a covered change of service at a medical facility partici-
22 pating in the pilot program, the Director of the medical
23 facility of the Department, or a designee, shall hold an
24 in-person forum to provide veterans who receive hospital
25 care or medical treatment at such medical facility an op-
26 portunity to comment on such change.

1 (e) REPORT.—Not later than nine months after the
2 enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Con-
3 gress a report on the results of the pilot program.

4 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) The term “covered change of service”
6 means the reduction or elimination of a medical
7 service provided at a medical facility of the Depart-
8 ment of Veterans Affairs, including a service related
9 to inpatient care, outpatient care, mental health
10 care, orthopedic care, or physical therapy.

11 (2) The term “qualifying veteran” means a vet-
12 eran who has received within a six-month period pre-
13 ceding a covered change of service hospital care or
14 medical treatment from a medical facility of the De-
15 partment of Veterans Affairs participating in the
16 pilot program.

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