

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 599

To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the mileage rate offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs through their Beneficiary Travel program for health related travel, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 13, 2025

Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. BOOKER) 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 increase the mileage rate offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs through their Beneficiary Travel program for health related travel, 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 “Driver Reimbursement
5 Increase for Veteran Equity Act of 2025” or the “DRIVE
6 Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. PAYMENTS OR ALLOWANCES BY DEPARTMENT OF**
2 **VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR BENEFICIARY TRAV-**
3 **EL.**

4 (a) MINIMUM PAYMENT AMOUNT.—Subsection (g) of
5 section 111 of title 38, United States Code, is amended
6 to read as follows:

7 “(g) The Secretary shall ensure that the mileage rate
8 described in subsection (a) is equal to or greater than the
9 mileage reimbursement rate for the use of privately owned
10 vehicles by Government employees on official business
11 (when no Government vehicle is available), as prescribed
12 by the Administrator of General Services under section
13 5707(b) of title 5.”.

14 (b) TIMELY PROCESSING OF ALLOWANCES.—Sub-
15 section (b) of such section is amended by adding at the
16 end the following new paragraph:

17 “(5) If, with respect to any fiscal year, the Secretary
18 exercises the authority under this section to make any pay-
19 ments, the Secretary shall take such actions as may be
20 necessary to ensure that an allowance based on mileage
21 paid under subsection (a) is paid not later than 90 days
22 after the date on which a request for such allowance is
23 properly submitted to the Secretary in accordance with
24 such regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary.”.

25 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section is
26 further amended—

- 1 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “(at a rate of
2 41.5 cents per mile)” and inserting “(at a rate de-
3 termined in accordance with subsection (g))”; and
4 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “and not-
5 withstanding subsection (g)(2) of this section”.

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