

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1254

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program under which eligible veterans may elect to receive hospital care and medical services at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2017

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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program under which eligible veterans may elect to receive hospital care and medical services at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities, 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 “Veterans Health ID
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
2 **AFFAIRS FEE-BASIS HEALTH CARE.**

3 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—Beginning not later than one
4 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
5 retary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a two-year pilot
6 program under which—

7 (1) eligible veterans may elect to receive hos-
8 pital care and medical services at non-Department of
9 Veterans Affairs facilities; and

10 (2) the Secretary shall reimburse such facilities
11 for the cost of such care and services.

12 (b) ELIGIBLE VETERAN.—For purposes of the pilot
13 program under this section, an eligible veteran is a veteran
14 who—

15 (1) is enrolled in the patient enrollment system
16 of the Department of Veterans Affairs under section
17 1705 of title 38, United States Code; and

18 (2) resides in a geographic area selected by the
19 Secretary under subsection (c).

20 (c) SELECTION OF GEOGRAPHIC AREAS.—The Sec-
21 retary shall select one geographic area within each Vet-
22 erans Integrated Service Network for participation in the
23 pilot program. For Veterans Integrated Service Network
24 4, the Secretary shall select NJ–2 as the geographic area
25 for participation in the pilot program.

1 (d) IDENTIFICATION CARD.—Under the pilot pro-
2 gram, the Secretary shall issue to each eligible veteran
3 who elects to receive hospital care and medical services
4 at non-Department facilities a unique identification card.
5 The Secretary shall take such steps as may be necessary
6 to ensure that such veterans receive such care and services
7 at such non-Department facilities upon presentation of the
8 identification card.

9 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the con-
10 clusion of the pilot program under this section, the Sec-
11 retary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs
12 of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on
13 the pilot program. Such report shall include the Sec-
14 retary's analysis of the success of the pilot program and
15 any recommendations for extending or expanding the pilot
16 program.

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