

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3441

To provide for automatic enrollment of veterans returning from combat zones into the VA medical system, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 2009

Mr. ARCURI (for himself, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. SIRES, Mr. MASSA, Mr. BOCCIERI, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. MINNICK, and Mr. FILNER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To provide for automatic enrollment of veterans returning from combat zones into the VA medical system, 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. AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT OF VETERANS RE-**
4 **TURNING FROM COMBAT ZONES INTO THE VA**
5 **MEDICAL SYSTEM.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the
7 date on which a veteran described in section
8 1710(e)(1)(D) of title 38, United States Code, is dis-
9 charged or separated from service in the active military,

1 naval, or air service, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
2 in cooperation with the Secretary of Defense, shall—

3 (1) enroll such veteran in the patient enroll-
4 ment system maintained by the Secretary under sec-
5 tion 1705 of that title; and

6 (2) provide such veteran with—

7 (A) a veterans identification card that—

8 (i) demonstrates that such veteran is
9 enrolled in such system; and

10 (ii) allows such veteran to access hos-
11 pital care and medical services at Depart-
12 ment of Veterans Affairs medical facilities;

13 (B) a list of Department of Veterans Af-
14 fairs medical facilities (including hospitals, out-
15 patient centers, and mental health clinics) lo-
16 cated within 100 miles of the home of the vet-
17 eran; and

18 (C) a description of available Federal vet-
19 erans benefits and programs, including edu-
20 cational benefits and job training and place-
21 ment programs, which the veteran may be eligi-
22 ble for due to the veteran's service in the active
23 military, naval, or air service.

24 (b) OPT OUT PROVISIONS.—

25 (1) PRIOR TO ENROLLMENT.—

1 (A) OPTION NOT TO ENROLL.—During the
2 discharge or separation process for a person
3 from active military, naval, or air service, and
4 prior to enrolling the person pursuant to sub-
5 section (a)(1), the Secretary of Veterans Af-
6 fairs, in coordination with the Secretary of De-
7 fense, shall provide the person with the option
8 to decline such enrollment.

9 (B) NOTICE TO SECRETARY; PROHIBITION
10 ON ENROLLMENT.—If a person provides notice
11 to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that the
12 person is declining enrollment under subpara-
13 graph (A), the Secretary may not enroll the
14 person pursuant to subsection (a)(1).

15 (2) SUBSEQUENT TO ENROLLMENT.—

16 (A) NOTICE TO SECRETARY.—Not later
17 than 6 months after the date on which a vet-
18 eran is enrolled under section 1705 of title 38,
19 United States Code, pursuant to subsection
20 (a)(1), a veteran so enrolled may disenroll from
21 the patient enrollment system under such sec-
22 tion by providing notice to the Secretary of Vet-
23 erans Affairs.

24 (B) DISENROLLMENT.—Not later than 60
25 days after receiving notice from a veteran under

1 subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Veterans
2 Affairs shall disenroll such veteran from such
3 patient enrollment system.

4 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
5 on the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment
6 of this Act.

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