

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4779

To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that veterans who experience extended waiting times for appointments at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs may receive care at non-Department facilities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 30, 2014

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

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that veterans who experience extended waiting times for appointments at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs may receive care at non-Department facilities.

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 Need Timely
5 Access to Care Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF FEE-BASIS CARE BY DEPARTMENT**
2 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR PATIENTS WHO**
3 **EXPERIENCE EXTENDED WAITING TIMES.**

4 Section 1703 of title 38, United States Code, is
5 amended—

6 (1) by redesignating subsections (b) through (d)
7 as subsections (c) through (e), respectively;

8 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
9 lowing new subsection (b):

10 “(b) As authorized by section 1710 of this title, the
11 Secretary shall enter into contracts with such non-Depart-
12 ment facilities as may be necessary in order to furnish
13 hospital care or medical services to any veteran enrolled
14 in the patient enrollment system under section 1705 of
15 this title who—

16 “(1) has waited—

17 “(A) seven days or longer for an appoint-
18 ment for primary care in a Department facility;
19 or

20 “(B) 14 days or longer for an appointment
21 for speciality care in a Department facility; and

22 “(2) elects to receive such care in a non-De-
23 partment facility.”; and

1 (3) in subsection (c), as redesignated by para-
2 graph (1), by inserting “or (b)” after “subsection
3 (a)”.

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