

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3246

To provide for the temporary use of Veterans Choice Funds for certain programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2015

Ms. BROWN of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for the temporary use of Veterans Choice Funds for certain programs, 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. TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION OF USE OF VET-**
4 **ERANS CHOICE FUNDS FOR CERTAIN PRO-**
5 **GRAMS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 802 of
7 the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of
8 2014 (Public Law 113–146; 128 Stat. 1802) is amend-
9 ed—

1 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “Any
2 amounts” and inserting “Except as provided by
3 paragraph (3), any amounts”; and

4 (2) by adding at the end the following para-
5 graph:

6 “(3) TEMPORARY AUTHORITY FOR OTHER
7 USES.—

8 “(A) OTHER NON-DEPARTMENT CARE.—In
9 addition to the use of amounts described in
10 paragraph (1), of the amounts deposited in the
11 Veterans Choice Fund, not more than
12 \$3,348,500,000 may be used by the Secretary
13 during the period described in subparagraph
14 (C) for amounts obligated by the Secretary on
15 or after May 1, 2015, to furnish health care to
16 individuals pursuant to chapter 17 of title 38,
17 United States Code, at non-Department facili-
18 ties, including pursuant to non-Department
19 provider programs other than the program es-
20 tablished by section 101.

21 “(B) HEPATITIS C.—Of the amount speci-
22 fied in subparagraph (A), not more than
23 \$500,000,000 may be used by the Secretary
24 during the period described in subparagraph

1 (C) for pharmaceutical expenses relating to the
2 treatment of Hepatitis C.

3 “(C) PERIOD DESCRIBED.—The period de-
4 scribed in this subparagraph is the period be-
5 ginning on the date of the enactment of the VA
6 Budget and Choice Improvement Act and end-
7 ing on October 1, 2015.

8 “(D) REPORTS.—Not later than 14 days
9 after the date of the enactment of the VA
10 Budget and Choice Improvement Act, and not
11 less frequently than once every 14-day period
12 thereafter during the period described in sub-
13 paragraph (C), the Secretary shall submit to
14 the appropriate congressional committees a re-
15 port detailing—

16 “(i) the amounts used by the Sec-
17 retary pursuant to subparagraphs (A) and
18 (B); and

19 “(ii) an identification of such amounts
20 listed by the non-Department provider pro-
21 gram for which the amounts were used.

22 “(E) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

23 “(i) The term ‘appropriate congres-
24 sional committees’ means—

1 “(I) the Committee on Veterans’
2 Affairs and the Committee on Appro-
3 priations of the House of Representa-
4 tives; and

5 “(II) the Committee on Veterans’
6 Affairs and the Committee on Appro-
7 priations of the Senate.

8 “(ii) The term ‘non-Department facili-
9 ties’ has the meaning given that term in
10 section 1701 of title 38, United States
11 Code.

12 “(iii) The term ‘non-Department pro-
13 vider programs’ means each program ad-
14 ministered by the Secretary of Veterans
15 Affairs under which the Secretary enters
16 into contracts or other agreements with
17 health care providers at non-Department
18 facilities to furnish hospital care and med-
19 ical services to veterans, including pursu-
20 ant to the following:

21 “(I) Section 1703 of title 38,
22 United States Code.

23 “(II) The Veterans Choice Pro-
24 gram established by section 101 of the
25 Veterans Access, Choice, and Ac-

1 countability Act of 2014 (Public Law
2 113–146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note).

3 “(III) The Patient Centered
4 Community Care Program (known as
5 ‘PC3’).

6 “(IV) The pilot program estab-
7 lished by section 403 of the Veterans’
8 Mental Health and Other Care Im-
9 provements Act of 2008 (Public Law
10 110–387; 38 U.S.C. 1703 note)
11 (known as ‘Project ARCH’).

12 “(V) Contracts relating to dialy-
13 sis.

14 “(VI) Agreements entered into by
15 the Secretary with—

16 “(aa) the Secretary of De-
17 fense, the Director of the Indian
18 Health Service, or the head of
19 any other department or agency
20 of the Federal Government; or

21 “(bb) any academic affiliate
22 or other non-governmental entity.

23 “(VII) Programs relating to
24 emergency care, including under sec-

1 tions 1725 and 1728 of title 38,
2 United States Code.”.

3 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (d)(1)
4 of such section is amended by inserting before the period
5 at the end the following: “(or for hospital care and medical
6 services pursuant to subsection (c)(3) of this section)”.

7 **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—This title, except for section 7, is
9 designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to sec-
10 tion 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2
11 U.S.C. 933(g)).

12 (b) DESIGNATION IN SENATE.—In the Senate, this
13 title, except for section 7, is designated as an emergency
14 requirement pursuant to section 403(a) of S. Con. Res.
15 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the
16 budget for fiscal year 2010.

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