

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3055

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a dental insurance plan to veterans and survivors and dependents of veterans.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 14, 2016

Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. TESTER) 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 provide a dental insurance plan to veterans and survivors and dependents of veterans.

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 “Department of Vet-
5 erans Affairs Dental Insurance Reauthorization Act of
6 2016”.

7 **SEC. 2. DENTAL INSURANCE PLAN FOR VETERANS AND**
8 **SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS OF VETERANS.**

9 (a) DENTAL INSURANCE PLAN.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 17
2 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by in-
3 serting after section 1712B the following new sec-
4 tion:

5 **“§ 1712C. Dental insurance plan for veterans and sur-**
6 **vivors and dependents of veterans**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
8 and administer a dental insurance plan for veterans and
9 survivors and dependents of veterans described in sub-
10 section (b).

11 “(b) COVERED VETERANS AND SURVIVORS AND DE-
12 PENDENTS.—The veterans and survivors and dependents
13 of veterans described in this subsection are as follows:

14 “(1) Any veteran who is enrolled in the system
15 of annual patient enrollment under section 1705 of
16 this title.

17 “(2) Any survivor or dependent of a veteran
18 who is eligible for medical care under section 1781
19 of this title.

20 “(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall contract
21 with a dental insurer to administer the dental insurance
22 plan under this section.

23 “(d) BENEFITS.—The dental insurance plan under
24 this section shall provide such benefits for dental care and
25 treatment as the Secretary considers appropriate for the

1 dental insurance plan, including diagnostic services, pre-
2 ventative services, endodontics and other restorative serv-
3 ices, surgical services, and emergency services.

4 “(e) ENROLLMENT.—(1) Enrollment in the dental in-
5 surance plan under this section shall be voluntary.

6 “(2) Enrollment in the dental insurance plan shall
7 be for such minimum period as the Secretary shall pre-
8 scribe for purposes of this section.

9 “(f) PREMIUMS.—(1) Premiums for coverage under
10 the dental insurance plan under this section shall be in
11 such amount or amounts as the Secretary shall prescribe
12 to cover all costs associated with carrying out this section.

13 “(2) The Secretary shall adjust the premiums pay-
14 able under this section for coverage under the dental in-
15 surance plan on an annual basis. Each individual covered
16 by the dental insurance plan at the time of such an adjust-
17 ment shall be notified of the amount and effective date
18 of such adjustment.

19 “(3) Each individual covered by the dental insurance
20 plan shall pay the entire premium for coverage under the
21 dental insurance plan, in addition to the full cost of any
22 copayments.

23 “(g) VOLUNTARY DISENROLLMENT.—(1) With re-
24 spect to enrollment in the dental insurance plan under this
25 section, the Secretary shall—

1 “(A) permit the voluntary disenrollment of an
2 individual in the dental insurance plan if the
3 disenrollment occurs during the 30-day period begin-
4 ning on the date of the enrollment of the individual
5 in the dental insurance plan; and

6 “(B) permit the voluntary disenrollment of an
7 individual in the dental insurance plan for such cir-
8 cumstances as the Secretary shall prescribe for pur-
9 poses of this subsection, but only to the extent such
10 disenrollment does not jeopardize the fiscal integrity
11 of the dental insurance plan.

12 “(2) The circumstances prescribed under paragraph
13 (1)(B) shall include the following:

14 “(A) If an individual enrolled in the dental in-
15 surance plan relocates to a location outside the juris-
16 diction of the dental insurance plan that prevents
17 use of the benefits under the dental insurance plan.

18 “(B) If an individual enrolled in the dental in-
19 surance plan is prevented by a serious medical con-
20 dition from being able to obtain benefits under the
21 dental insurance plan.

22 “(C) Such other circumstances as the Secretary
23 shall prescribe for purposes of this subsection.

24 “(3) The Secretary shall establish procedures for de-
25 terminations on the permissibility of voluntary

1 disenrollments under paragraph (1)(B). Such procedures
 2 shall ensure timely determinations on the permissibility of
 3 such disenrollments.

4 “(h) RELATIONSHIP TO DENTAL CARE PROVIDED BY
 5 SECRETARY.—Nothing in this section shall affect the re-
 6 sponsibility of the Secretary to provide dental care under
 7 section 1712 of this title, and the participation of an indi-
 8 vidual in the dental insurance plan under this section shall
 9 not affect the entitlement of the individual to outpatient
 10 dental services and treatment, and related dental appli-
 11 ances, under such section 1712.

12 “(i) REGULATIONS.—The dental insurance plan
 13 under this section shall be administered under such regu-
 14 lations as the Secretary shall prescribe.

15 “(j) TERMINATION.—This section terminates on De-
 16 cember 31, 2021.”.

17 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 18 tions at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is
 19 amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-
 20 tion 1712B the following new item:

“1712C. Dental insurance plan for veterans and survivors and dependents of
 veterans.”.

21 (b) CONFORMING REPEAL.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 510 of the Care-
 23 givers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of

1 2010 (Public Law 111–163; 38 U.S.C. 1712 note)
2 is repealed.

3 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
4 tents for the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus
5 Health Services Act of 2010 is amended by striking
6 the item relating to section 510.

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