

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4727

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to assign temporary disability ratings to certain veterans for purposes of compensation and health care, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 21, 2017

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to assign temporary disability ratings to certain veterans for purposes of compensation and health care, 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 “Improving Access to
5 VA Care Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. TEMPORARY DISABILITY RATING.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1156 of title 38, United
8 States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by adding at the end
2 the following new subparagraph:

3 “(E) To a veteran who—

4 “(i) is not described in subparagraph (A),
5 (B), (C), or (D); and

6 “(ii) files a claim for disability compensa-
7 tion under this chapter.”;

8 (2) by adding after paragraph (3) of subsection
9 (a) the following new paragraph:

10 “(4) With respect to a veteran described in paragraph
11 (1)(E), the Secretary shall schedule a medical examination
12 for such veteran concerning the disability of the veteran
13 as soon as is practicable after the veteran files a claim
14 for disability compensation under this chapter.”; and

15 (3) in subsection (b)(1), by adding after sub-
16 paragraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

17 “(E) For a veteran who is assigned a tem-
18 porary disability rating under subsection (a)(1)(E),
19 until the date on which a rating decision is issued
20 to such veteran following the medical examination
21 scheduled under subsection (a)(4).”.

22 (b) HEALTH CARE.—Section 1705 of title 38, United
23 States Code, is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (a)(3)—

1 (A) by striking “and veterans described”
2 and inserting “veterans described”; and

3 (B) by inserting “, and veterans assigned
4 a temporary disability rating under section
5 1156(a)(1)(E) of this title” after “of this title”;
6 and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
8 section (d):

9 “(d)(1) The Secretary shall assist a veteran described
10 in paragraph (3) in finding hospital care and medical serv-
11 ices to be provided to the veteran by non-Department fa-
12 cilities or providers after the Secretary ceases to furnish
13 such care and services under this chapter to the veteran.

14 “(2) A veteran described in paragraph (3) shall not
15 owe the United States for any costs of hospital care or
16 medical services described in subparagraph (A) of such
17 paragraph.

18 “(3) A veteran described in this paragraph is a vet-
19 eran who—

20 “(A) received hospital care and medical services
21 under this chapter pursuant to a temporary dis-
22 ability rating assigned under section 1156(a)(1)(E)
23 of this title; and

1 “(B) the Secretary determines does not have a
2 service-connected disability.”.

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