

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 544

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## AN ACT

To amend the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to modify the termination date for the Veterans Choice Program, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. MODIFICATION OF TERMINATION DATE FOR**  
 2 **VETERANS CHOICE PROGRAM.**

3 Section 101(p)(2) of the Veterans Access, Choice,  
 4 and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–146; 38  
 5 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by striking “, or the date  
 6 that is 3 years after the date of the enactment of this  
 7 Act, whichever occurs first”.

8 **SEC. 2. ELIMINATION OF REQUIREMENT TO ACT AS SEC-**  
 9 **ONDARY PAYER FOR CARE RELATING TO**  
 10 **NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES**  
 11 **AND RECOVERY OF COSTS FOR CERTAIN**  
 12 **CARE UNDER CHOICE PROGRAM.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(e) of the Veterans  
 14 Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public  
 15 Law 113–146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

16 (1) in the subsection heading, by striking  
 17 “OTHER HEALTH-CARE PLAN” and inserting “RE-  
 18 SPONSIBILITY FOR COSTS OF CERTAIN CARE”;

19 (2) in paragraph (1), in the paragraph heading,  
 20 by striking “TO SECRETARY” and inserting “ON  
 21 HEALTH-CARE PLANS”;

22 (3) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3);

23 (4) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-  
 24 graph (2); and

25 (5) by adding at the end the following new  
 26 paragraph:

1           “(3) RECOVERY OF COSTS FOR CERTAIN  
2 CARE.—

3           “(A) IN GENERAL.—In any case in which  
4 an eligible veteran is furnished hospital care or  
5 medical services under this section for a non-  
6 service-connected disability described in sub-  
7 section (a)(2) of section 1729 of title 38,  
8 United States Code, or for a condition for  
9 which recovery is authorized or with respect to  
10 which the United States is deemed to be a third  
11 party beneficiary under Public Law 87–693,  
12 commonly known as the ‘Federal Medical Care  
13 Recovery Act’ (42 U.S.C. 2651 et seq.), the  
14 Secretary shall recover or collect from a third  
15 party (as defined in subsection (i) of such sec-  
16 tion 1729) reasonable charges for such care or  
17 services to the extent that the veteran (or the  
18 provider of the care or services) would be eligi-  
19 ble to receive payment for such care or services  
20 from such third party if the care or services  
21 had not been furnished by a department or  
22 agency of the United States.

23           “(B) USE OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts col-  
24 lected by the Secretary under subparagraph (A)  
25 shall be deposited in the Medical Community

1 Care account of the Department. Amounts so  
 2 deposited shall remain available until ex-  
 3 pended.”.

4 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (1) of  
 5 such section is amended by striking “paragraph (4)” and  
 6 inserting “paragraph (2)”.

7 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY TO DISCLOSE CERTAIN MEDICAL**  
 8 **RECORDS OF VETERANS WHO RECEIVE NON-**  
 9 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
 10 **HEALTH CARE.**

11 Section 7332(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code,  
 12 is amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
 13 paragraph:

14 “(H)(i) To a non-Department entity (including  
 15 private entities and other Federal agencies) that  
 16 provides hospital care or medical services to veterans  
 17 as authorized by the Secretary.

18 “(ii) An entity to which a record is disclosed  
 19 under this subparagraph may not redisclose or use

- 1       such record for a purpose other than that for which
- 2       the disclosure was made.”.

Passed the Senate April 3, 2017.

Attest:

*Secretary.*

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