

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2493

To amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authorization period for emergency treatment in non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities under the Veterans Community Care Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 2, 2019

Mr. GIBBS (for himself, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. GALLAGHER, and Mr. FULCHER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authorization period for emergency treatment in non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities under the Veterans Community Care Program.

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 “Addressing Care
5 Timelines for Veterans Act” or the “ACT for Veterans
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION PERIOD FOR EMERGENCY TREAT-**
2 **MENT IN NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
3 **AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITIES.**

4 (a) AUTHORIZATION PERIOD.—Section 1703(a)(3) of
5 title 38, United States Code, is amended—

6 (1) by striking “A covered veteran” and insert-
7 ing “(A) Except as provided by subparagraph (B),
8 a covered veteran”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
10 paragraph:

11 “(B) In the case of an emergency which existed at
12 the time of admission of a covered veteran to a health care
13 provider, the Secretary shall deem the care or services re-
14 ceived by the veteran during such admission to be author-
15 ized under subparagraph (A) if the covered veteran (or
16 an individual acting on behalf of the covered veteran)
17 makes an application for such authorization during the pe-
18 riod following such admission that the Secretary deter-
19 mines appropriate for purposes of this paragraph, except
20 such period may not be less than 96 hours.”.

21 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
22 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date specified in
23 section 101(b) of the Caring for Our Veterans Act of 2018
24 (38 U.S.C. 1703 note; Public Law 115–182; 132 Stat.
25 1403).