

third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 123) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 123

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Ensuring Quality Care for Our Veterans Act”.

SEC. 2. THIRD PARTY REVIEW OF APPOINTEES IN VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION WHO HAD A LICENSE TERMINATED FOR CAUSE AND NOTICE TO INDIVIDUALS TREATED BY THOSE APPOINTEES IF DETERMINED THAT AN EPISODE OF CARE OR SERVICES TO WHICH THEY RECEIVED WAS BELOW THE STANDARD OF CARE.

(a) **THIRD PARTY REVIEW.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter into a contract or other agreement with an organization that is not part of the Federal Government to conduct a clinical review for quality management of hospital care or medical services furnished by covered providers.

(2) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—The Secretary shall ensure that each review of a covered provider under this subsection is performed by an individual who is licensed in the same specialty as the covered provider.

(b) **NOTICE TO PATIENTS TREATED BY COVERED PROVIDERS.**—With respect to hospital care or medical services furnished by a covered provider under the laws administered by the Secretary, if a clinical review for quality management under subsection (a) determines that the standard of care was not met during an episode of care, the Secretary shall notify the individual who received such care or services from the covered provider as described in applicable policy of the Veterans Health Administration.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **COVERED PROVIDER.**—The term “covered provider” means an individual who—

(A) was appointed to the Veterans Health Administration under section 7401 of title 38, United States Code; and

(B) had a license terminated for cause by a State licensing board for hospital care or medical services provided in a facility that is not a facility of the Veterans Health Administration.

(2) **HOSPITAL CARE OR MEDICAL SERVICES.**—The terms “hospital care” and “medical services” have the meanings given those terms in section 1701 of title 38, United States Code.

AMENDING THE KLAMATH BASIN WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2000 TO MAKE CERTAIN TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of S. 3758 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3758) to amend the Klamath Basin Water Supply Enhancement Act of 2000 to make certain technical corrections.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PERDUE. I ask unanimous consent that the Merkley amendment at the desk be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2388) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. KLAMATH BASIN WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2000 TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

Section 4(b) of the Klamath Basin Water Supply Enhancement Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2222; 132 Stat. 3887) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “Pursuant to the reclamation laws and subject” and inserting “Subject”; and

(ii) by striking “may” and inserting “is authorized to”; and

(B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “, including conservation and efficiency measures, land idling, and use of groundwater,” after “administer programs”;

(2) in paragraph (3)(A), by inserting “and” after the semicolon at the end;

(3) by redesignating the second paragraph (4) (relating to the effect of the subsection) as paragraph (5); and

(4) in paragraph (5) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (B);

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “; or” and inserting a period; and

(C) by striking “the Secretary—” and all that follows through “to develop” in subparagraph (A) and inserting “the Secretary to develop”.

SEC. 2. CONTINUED USE OF PICK-SLOAN MISSOURI BASIN PROGRAM PROJECT USE POWER BY THE KINSEY IRRIGATION COMPANY AND THE SIDNEY WATER USERS IRRIGATION DISTRICT.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and subject to subsection (b), the Secretary of the Interior (acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation) shall continue to treat the irrigation pumping units known as the “Kinsey Irrigation Company” in Custer County, Montana and the “Sidney Water Users Irrigation District” in Richland County, Montana, or any successor to the Kinsey Irrigation Company or Sidney Water Users Irrigation District, as irrigation pumping units of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program for the purposes of wheeling, administration, and payment of project use power, including the applicability of provisions relating to the treatment of costs beyond the ability to pay under section 9 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (commonly known as the “Flood Control Act of 1944”) (58 Stat. 891, chapter 665).

(b) **LIMITATION.**—The quantity of power to be provided to the Kinsey Irrigation Company and the Sidney Water Users Irrigation District (including any successor to the Kinsey Irrigation Company or the Sidney Water Users Irrigation District) under subsection (a) may not exceed the maximum quantity of power provided to the Kinsey Irrigation Company and the Sidney Water Users Irrigation District under the applicable contract for electric service in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. PERDUE. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 3758), as amended, was passed.

Mr. PERDUE. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SERGEANT DANIEL SOMERS VETERANS NETWORK OF SUPPORT ACT OF 2019

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 414, S. 2864.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2864) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on information sharing between the Department of Veterans Affairs and designated relatives and friends of veterans regarding the assistance and benefits available to the veterans, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Veterans Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Sergeant Daniel Somers Veterans Network of Support Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON INFORMATION SHARING BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND DESIGNATED RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF VETERANS REGARDING THE ASSISTANCE AND BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO THE VETERANS.

(a) **PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall commence carrying out a pilot program—

(A) to encourage members of the Armed Forces who are transitioning from service in the Armed Forces to civilian life, before separating from such service, to designate up to 10 persons to whom information regarding the assistance and benefits available to the veterans under laws administered by the Secretary shall be disseminated using the contact information obtained under paragraph (7); and

(B) provides such persons, within 30 days after the date on which such persons are designated under subparagraph (A), the option to elect to receive such information.

(2) **DURATION.**—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program during a period beginning on the date of the commencement of the pilot program that is not less than two years.

(3) **DISSEMINATION.**—The Secretary shall disseminate information described in paragraph (1)(A) under the pilot program no less frequently than quarterly.

(4) **TYPES OF INFORMATION.**—The types of information to be disseminated under the pilot program to persons who elect to receive such information shall include information regarding the following:

(A) Services and benefits offered to veterans and their family members by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(B) Challenges and stresses that might accompany transitioning from service in the Armed Forces to civilian life.

(C) Services available to veterans and their family members to cope with the experiences and challenges of service in the Armed Forces and transition from such service to civilian life.

(D) Services available through community partner organizations to support veterans and their family members.

(E) Services available through Federal, State, and local government agencies to support veterans and their family members.

(F) The environmental health registry program, health and wellness programs, and resources for preventing and managing diseases and illnesses.

(G) A toll-free telephone number through which such persons who elect to receive information under the pilot program may request information regarding the program.

(H) Such other matters as the Secretary, in consultation with members of the Armed Forces and such persons who elect to receive information under the pilot program, determines to be appropriate.

(5) **PRIVACY OF INFORMATION.**—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary may not disseminate information under paragraph (4) in violation of laws and regulations pertaining to the privacy of members of the Armed Forces, including requirements pursuant to—

(A) section 552a of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-191).

(6) **NOTICE AND MODIFICATIONS.**—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall, with respect to a veteran—

(A) ensure that such veteran is notified of the ability to modify designations made by such veteran under paragraph (1)(A); and

(B) upon the request of a veteran, authorize such veteran to modify such designations at any time.

(7) **CONTACT INFORMATION.**—In making a designation under the pilot program, a veteran shall provide necessary contact information, specifically including an email address, to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding the assistance and benefits available to the veteran under laws administered by the Secretary.

(8) **OPT-IN AND OPT-OUT OF PILOT PROGRAM.**—

(A) **OPT-IN BY MEMBERS.**—A veteran may participate in the pilot program only if the veteran voluntarily elects to participate in the program. A veteran seeking to make such an election shall make such election in a manner, and by including such information, as the Secretary shall specify for purposes of the pilot program.

(B) **OPT-IN BY DESIGNATED RECIPIENTS.**—A person designated pursuant to paragraph (1)(A) may receive information under the pilot program only if the person makes the election described in paragraph (1)(B).

(C) **OPT-OUT.**—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall, with respect to a person who has elected to receive information under such pilot program, cease disseminating such information to that person upon request of such person.

(b) **SURVEY AND REPORT ON PILOT PROGRAM.**—

(1) **SURVEY.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of the commencement of the pilot program and not less frequently than once each year thereafter for the duration of the pilot program, the Secretary shall administer a survey to persons who elected to receive information under the pilot program for the purpose of receiving feedback regarding the quality of information disseminated under this section.

(B) **ELEMENTS.**—Each survey conducted under subparagraph (A) shall include solicitation of the following:

(i) Feedback on the following:

(I) The nature of information disseminated under the pilot program.

(II) Satisfaction with the pilot program.

(III) The utility of the pilot program.

(IV) Overall pilot program successes and challenges.

(ii) Recommendations for improving the pilot program.

(iii) Reasons for opting in or out of the pilot program.

(iv) Such other feedback or matters as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(2) **REPORT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than three years after the date on which the pilot program commences, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a final report on the pilot program.

(B) **CONTENTS.**—The report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

(i) The results of the survey administered under paragraph (1).

(ii) The number of participants enrolled in the pilot program who are veterans.

(iii) The number of persons designated under subsection (a)(1)(A).

(iv) The number of such persons who opted in or out of the pilot program under subsection (a)(8).

(v) The average period such persons remained in the pilot program.

(vi) An assessment of the feasibility and advisability of making the pilot program permanent.

(vii) Identification of legislative or administrative action that may be necessary if the pilot program is made permanent.

(viii) A plan to expand the pilot program if the pilot program is made permanent.

(ix) If the Secretary finds under clause (vi) that making the pilot program permanent is not

feasible or advisable, a justification for such finding.

Mr. PERDUE. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2864), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2020

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 1; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 483, S. 4049.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW.

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:04 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, July 1, 2020, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WILLIAM PERRY PENDLEY, OF WYOMING, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, VICE NEIL GREGORY KORZNE.