

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4396

To require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on providing benefits under TRICARE Reserve Select and the TRICARE dental program to members of the Selected Reserve and their dependents.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 14, 2022

Ms. DUCKWORTH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on providing benefits under TRICARE Reserve Select and the TRICARE dental program to members of the Selected Reserve and their dependents.

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 “Access to Healthcare
5 for Reservists Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON PROVIDING BENEFITS UNDER TRICARE**
2 **RESERVE SELECT AND TRICARE DENTAL**
3 **PROGRAM TO MEMBERS OF THE SELECTED**
4 **RESERVE AND THEIR DEPENDENTS.**

5 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct
6 a study on the feasibility, potential cost effects to the
7 budget of the Department of Defense, changes in out-of-
8 pocket costs to beneficiaries, and effects on other Federal
9 programs of expanding eligibility for TRICARE Reserve
10 Select and the TRICARE dental program to include all
11 members of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve of
12 a reserve component of the Armed Forces, their depend-
13 ents, and their non-dependent children under the age of
14 26.

15 (b) SPECIFICATIONS.—In conducting the study under
16 subsection (a), the Secretary shall include an assessment
17 of the following:

18 (1) Cost-shifting to the Department of Defense
19 to support the expansion of TRICARE Reserve Se-
20 lect and the TRICARE dental program from—

21 (A) health benefit plans under chapter 89
22 of title 5, United States Code;

23 (B) employer-sponsored health insurance;

24 (C) private health insurance;

25 (D) insurance under a State health care
26 exchange; and

1 (E) the Medicaid program under title XIX
2 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et
3 seq.).

4 (2) New costs for the Department of Defense to
5 enroll in TRICARE Reserve Select and the
6 TRICARE dental program members of the Selected
7 Reserve of the Ready Reserve of a reserve compo-
8 nent of the Armed Forces who were previously unin-
9 sured.

10 (3) The resources needed to implement
11 TRICARE Reserve Select and the TRICARE dental
12 program for all such members, their dependents, and
13 their non-dependent children under the age of 26.

14 (4) Anticipated cost-savings or cost-avoidance
15 of the expansion of TRICARE Reserve Select and
16 the TRICARE dental program with regard to in-
17 creased training days performed in support of mass
18 medical events during battle assemblies of the re-
19 serve components, including an assessment of the
20 impact of such expansion on—

- 21 (A) medical readiness;
22 (B) overall deployability rates;
23 (C) deployability timelines;
24 (D) fallout rates at mobilization sites;

1 (E) cross-leveling of members of the re-
2 serve components to backfill medical fallouts at
3 mobilization sites; and

4 (F) any other readiness metrics affected by
5 such expansion.

6 (5) Any impact of such expansion on recruit-
7 ment and retention of members of the Ready Re-
8 serve of the reserve components of the Armed
9 Forces.

10 (6) Any changes to out-of-pocket costs for such
11 members and their dependents resulting from such
12 expansion.

13 (7) Anticipated cost-savings or cost-avoidance
14 in contracts that implement the Reserve Health
15 Readiness Program of the Department of Defense.

16 (c) DETERMINATION OF COST EFFECTS.—In study-
17 ing the potential cost effects to the budget of the Depart-
18 ment of Defense under subsection (a), the Secretary of
19 Defense shall study the cost effects for the following sce-
20 narios of expanded eligibility for TRICARE Reserve Select
21 and the TRICARE dental program:

22 (1) Premium free for members of the Selected
23 Reserve of the Ready Reserve of a reserve compo-
24 nent of the Armed Forces, their dependents, and
25 their non-dependent children under the age of 26.

1 (2) Premium free for such members and sub-
2 sidized premiums for such dependents and non-de-
3 pendent children.

4 (3) Subsidized premiums for such members, de-
5 pendents, and non-dependent children.

6 (d) USE OF A FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH AND
7 DEVELOPMENT CENTER.—The Secretary shall contract
8 with a federally funded research and development center
9 that is qualified and appropriate to conduct the study re-
10 quired under subsection (a).

11 (e) BRIEFING; REPORT.—

12 (1) BRIEFING.—Not later than one year after
13 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
14 shall provide to the Committee on Armed Services of
15 the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of
16 the House of Representatives a briefing on the
17 methodology and approach of the study required
18 under subsection (a).

19 (2) REPORT.—Not later than two years after
20 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
21 shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of
22 the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of
23 the House of Representatives a report on the results
24 of the study required under subsection (a).

25 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) TRICARE DENTAL PROGRAM.—The term
2 “TRICARE dental program” means dental benefits
3 under section 1076a of title 10, United States Code.

4 (2) TRICARE RESERVE SELECT.—The term
5 “TRICARE Reserve Select” means health benefits
6 under section 1076d of such title.

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