

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 254

To amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the administration of the TRICARE program in Puerto Rico, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 10, 2023

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the administration of the TRICARE program in Puerto Rico, 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 “TRICARE Equality
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO ADMINISTRATION**
7 **OF TRICARE PROGRAM IN PUERTO RICO.**

8 (a) IMPROVEMENTS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 55 of title 10,
10 United States Code, is amended by inserting after

1 section 1076f the following new section (and con-
2 forming the table of sections at the beginning of
3 such chapter accordingly):

4 **“§ 1076g. TRICARE program: administration in Puer-**
5 **to Rico**

6 “(a) AVAILABILITY OF TRICARE PRIME.—In desig-
7 nating geographical areas under section 1097(b)(3) of this
8 title, the Secretary of Defense shall designate such areas
9 in Puerto Rico in a similar manner used to designate such
10 areas in the 50 States.

11 “(b) EXPANSION OF TRAVEL BENEFITS.—(1) In pro-
12 viding travel and transportation allowances under section
13 1074i of this title, the Secretary of Defense shall ensure
14 that individuals located in Puerto Rico who, but for such
15 location, would be eligible to receive such allowances pur-
16 suant to such section are eligible to receive such allow-
17 ances.

18 “(2) The Secretary may revise the regulations pre-
19 scribed under section 464 of title 37, or prescribe such
20 new regulations, as may be necessary for the administra-
21 tion of paragraph (1).

22 “(c) HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE.—The Di-
23 rector of the Federal Electronic Health Record Moderniza-
24 tion Office shall coordinate with the Director of the De-
25 partment of Health of Puerto Rico for the purpose of

1 sharing health information through the Joint Health In-
2 formation Exchange, or such successor initiative.

3 “(d) FEDERAL ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD MOD-
4 ERNIZATION OFFICE.—In this section, the term ‘Federal
5 Electronic Health Record Modernization Office’ means the
6 Office established under section 1635(b) of the Wounded
7 Warrior Act (title XVI of Public Law 110–181; 10 U.S.C.
8 1071 note).”.

9 (2) SUNSET.—Section 1076g of title 10, United
10 States Code, as added by paragraph (1), shall be re-
11 pealed on the date on which Puerto Rico is declared
12 to be a State of the United States of America and
13 is admitted to the Union on equal footing with the
14 other States in all respects.

15 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
16 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
17 shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the
18 House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the
19 progress of the Secretary in implementing the require-
20 ments of section 1076g of title 10, United States Code,
21 as added by subsection (a)(1).

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