

The Veterans Choice Act of 2014

Section 1

Provides a short title for the bill.

Section 2

Amends Title 38 of the United States Code to direct VA to provide veterans the choice to receive care from a non-Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provider should VA not meet their wait time performance metric or the veteran resides more than 40 miles from a VA facility and would provide a Choice card to enrolled veterans. This section would also direct VA to use Medicare prices when entering into contract. This section would be authorized for two years following VA's implementation of the program.

Section 3

Sense of Congress provision instructing the Secretary to abide by the Department of Treasury's Prompt Pay rule, which directs federal agencies to pay vendors in a timely manner and assess penalties should the agency submits a payment after the vendors due date.

Section 4

Changes the performance plans for certain VA medical center and Veterans Integrated Service Network senior leadership to prohibit the use of how well facilities are meeting the VA wait time performance metric (to discourage gaming in order to receive bonuses) and includes results of reviews from both inside and outside the Department.

Section 5

Improves the transparency of VA medical centers by directing VA to report to the Department of Health and Human Services the same patient quality and outcome information as other non-VA hospitals.

Section 6

Improves information available to veterans regarding the location of residency training in the "Our Providers" database (a list of VA's providers along with their education and board certifications) and make that database more visible on VA's website. Section 6 would also provide to veterans the credentials of physicians prior to veterans receiving surgery at VA.

Section 7

Details the information the Secretary would be required to include in the Department's budget justification materials on the choice program created under this act.

Section 8

Directs VA to establish disciplinary procedures should an employee knowingly falsify data pertaining to wait times and quality measures.

Section 9

Provides the Secretary the authority to demote or terminate a Senior Executive Employee based on the employee's performance. This language is identical to the bipartisan legislation (H.R. 4031/S. 2013) passed by the House of Representatives and introduced by Senator Rubio.