

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 5693
OFFERED BY MR. HIGGINS OF LOUISIANA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Long-Term Care Vet-
3 erans Choice Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CONTRACT AU-
5 THORITY FOR PLACEMENT OF VETERANS IN
6 NON-DEPARTMENT MEDICAL FOSTER HOMES.**

7 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—Section 1720 of title 38, United
8 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing new subsection:

10 “(h)(1) During the three-year period beginning on
11 October 1, 2019, and subject to paragraph (2), at the re-
12 quest of a veteran for whom the Secretary is required to
13 provide nursing home care under section 1710A of this
14 title, the Secretary may place the veteran in a medical fos-
15 ter home that meets Department standards, at the ex-
16 pense of the United States, pursuant to a contract, agree-
17 ment, or other arrangement entered into between the Sec-
18 retary and the medical foster home for such purpose. A

1 veteran who is placed in a medical foster home under this
2 subsection shall agree, as a condition of such placement,
3 to accept home health services furnished by the Secretary
4 under section 1717 of this title.

5 “(2) In any year, not more than a daily average of
6 900 veterans placed in a medical foster home, whether
7 placed before or after the date of the enactment of this
8 subsection, may have their care covered at the expense of
9 the United States under subsection (a).

10 “(3) In this subsection, the term ‘medical foster
11 home’ means a home designed to provide non-institutional,
12 long-term, supportive care for veterans who are unable to
13 live independently and prefer a family setting.”.

14 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (h) of title 38,
15 United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take
16 effect on October 1, 2019.

