

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish certain health services to veterans in the Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. KING-HINDS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish certain health services to veterans in the Freely Associated States, 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 “U.S. Vets of the FAS
5 Act”.

6 SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT TO FURNISH CERTAIN HEALTH
7 SERVICES TO VETERANS IN THE FREELY AS-
8 SOCIATED STATES.

9 (a) AGREEMENTS REQUIRED.—Consistent with sec-
10 tion 1724(f) of title 38, United States Code, and section

1 209(a)(4)(A) of the Compact of Free Association Amend-
2 ments Act of 2024 (48 U.S.C. 1988(a)(4)(A)), the Sec-
3 retary of Veterans Affairs shall work expeditiously with
4 the governments of the Freely Associated States to enter
5 into the agreements described in such sections.

6 (b) INCLUSION OF TELEHEALTH AND MAIL ORDER
7 PHARMACY SERVICES REQUIRED.—Consistent with such
8 sections and with the agreements required by subsection
9 (a), the Secretary shall furnish to veterans in the Freely
10 Associated States services that include, at a minimum—
11 (1) health services provided by telehealth; and
12 (2) pharmaceutical products delivered by mail.

13 (c) IMPLEMENTATION DATES.—In carrying out sub-
14 sections (a) and (b), the Secretary shall, to the maximum
15 extent practicable—

16 (1) initiate outreach to each such government
17 not later than 30 days after the date of the enact-
18 ment of this Act;

19 (2) enter into each agreement required by sub-
20 section (a) not later than one year after the date of
21 the enactment of this Act; and

22 (3) begin furnishing the services required by
23 paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) not later
24 than one year after the date of the enactment of this
25 Act.

1 (d) PAYMENTS FOR BENEFICIARY TRAVEL RE-
2 QUIRED.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 111(h)(1) of title
4 38, United States Code, is amended—

5 (A) by striking “Notwithstanding any
6 other provision of law, the Secretary may make
7 payments” and inserting “Notwithstanding any
8 other provision of law:

9 “(A) The Secretary may make payments”; and

10 (B) by adding at the end the following new
11 subparagraph:

12 “(B) If, with respect to any fiscal year, the Sec-
13 retary exercises the authority under this section to
14 make any payments, the Secretary shall make the
15 payments provided for in subparagraph (A).”.

16 (2) APPLICABILITY.—Subparagraph (B) of
17 such section 111(h)(1) shall apply to travel occur-
18 ring on or after the date that is one year after the
19 date of the enactment of this Act.

20 (e) REPORTS.—Not less frequently than quarterly,
21 the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees
22 of Congress a report on the implementation of this section
23 and the cost of such implementation. Until the Secretary
24 has entered into the agreements required by subsection (a)
25 and begun furnishing the services required by paragraphs

1 (1) and (2) of subsection (b), the report shall also describe
2 the technical and logistical factors that have prevented or
3 impeded the Secretary from doing so.

4 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
6 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
7 gress” means—

8 (A) the Committee on Veterans Affairs
9 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
10 Senate; and

11 (B) the Committee on Veterans Affairs
12 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
13 House of Representatives.

14 (2) FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.—The term
15 “Freely Associated States” has the meaning given
16 such term in section 1724(f) of title 38, United
17 States Code.