

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 7158, with An Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7158

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of care in non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical foster homes for certain veterans who are unable to live independently, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana (for himself, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. MANN, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. MAST, Mr. YOUNG, MR. MASSIE, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. CAWTHORN, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, and Mr. CORREA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of care in non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical foster homes for certain veterans who are unable to live independently, 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,*

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 PAYMENT OF CARE FOR VET-**
6 **ERANS IN NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
7 **AFFAIRS MEDICAL FOSTER HOMES.**

8 (a) AUTHORITY.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1720 of title 38,
10 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
11 end the following new subsection:

12 “(h)(1) During the five-year period beginning on the
13 date of the enactment of the Long-Term Care Veterans
14 Choice Act, and subject to paragraph (3)—

15 “(A) at the request of a veteran for whom the
16 Secretary is required to provide nursing home care
17 under section 1710A of this title, the Secretary may
18 place the veteran in a medical foster home that
19 meets Department standards, at the expense of the
20 United States, pursuant to a contract, agreement, or
21 other arrangement entered into between the Sec-
22 retary and the medical foster home for such purpose;
23 and

24 “(B) the Secretary may pay for care of a vet-
25 eran placed in a medical foster home before such
26 date of enactment, if the home meets Department

1 standards, pursuant to a contract, agreement, or
2 other arrangement entered into between the Sec-
3 retary and the medical foster home for such purpose.

4 “(2) A veteran on whose behalf the Secretary pays
5 for care in a medical foster home under paragraph (1)
6 shall agree, as a condition of such payment, to accept
7 home health services furnished by the Secretary under sec-
8 tion 1717 of this title.

9 “(3) In any year, not more than a daily average of
10 900 veterans receiving care in a medical foster home,
11 whether placed before, on, or after the date of the enact-
12 ment of the Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act, may
13 have their care covered at the expense of the United States
14 under paragraph (1).

15 “(4) The prohibition under section 1730(b)(3) of this
16 title shall not apply to a veteran whose care is covered
17 at the expense of the United States under paragraph (1).

18 “(5) In this subsection, the term ‘medical foster
19 home’ means a home designed to provide non-institutional,
20 long-term, supportive care for veterans who are unable to
21 live independently and prefer a family setting.”.

22 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (h) of sec-
23 tion 1720 of title 38, United States Code, as added
24 by paragraph (1), shall take effect 90 days after the
25 date of the enactment of this Act.

1 (b) ONGOING MONITORING OF MEDICAL FOSTER
2 HOME PROGRAM.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
4 Affairs shall create a system to monitor and assess
5 the workload for the Department of Veterans Affairs
6 in carrying out the authority under section 1720(h)
7 of title 38, United States Code, as added by sub-
8 section (a)(1), including by tracking—

9 (A) requests by veterans to be placed in a
10 medical foster home under such section;

11 (B) denials of such requests, including the
12 reasons for such denials;

13 (C) the total number of medical foster
14 homes applying to participate under such sec-
15 tion, disaggregated by those approved and those
16 denied approval by the Department to partici-
17 pate;

18 (D) veterans receiving care at a medical
19 foster home at the expense of the United
20 States; and

21 (E) veterans receiving care at a medical
22 foster home at their own expense.

23 (2) REPORT.—Based on the monitoring and as-
24 sessments conducted under paragraph (1), the Sec-
25 retary shall identify and submit to Congress a report

1 on such modifications to implementing section
2 1720(h) of title 38, United States Code, as added by
3 subsection (a)(1), as the Secretary considers nec-
4 essary to ensure the authority under such section is
5 functioning as intended and care is provided to vet-
6 erans under such section as intended.

7 (3) MEDICAL FOSTER HOME DEFINED.—In this
8 subsection, the term “medical foster home” has the
9 meaning given that term in section 1720(h) of title
10 38, United States Code, as added by subsection
11 (a)(1).

12 (c) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.—Not later
13 than each of three years and six years after the date of
14 the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the
15 United States shall submit to Congress a report—

16 (1) assessing the implementation of this section
17 and the amendments made by this section;

18 (2) assessing the impact of the monitoring and
19 modifications under subsection (b) on care provided
20 under section 1720(h) of title 38, United States
21 Code, as added by subsection (a)(1); and

22 (3) setting forth recommendations for improve-
23 ments to the implementation of such section, as the
24 Comptroller General considers appropriate.

1 (d) MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN HOUSING LOAN
2 FEE.—The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38,
3 United States Code, is amended by striking “January 14,
4 2031” each place it appears and inserting “February 15,
5 2031”.