

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3644

To amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authorization period for emergency treatment in non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities under the Veterans Community Care Program.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 24, 2023

Mr. LATTA (for himself, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. STEWART, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. BENTZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authorization period for emergency treatment in non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities under the Veterans Community Care Program.

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 “Addressing Care  
5 Timelines for Veterans Act” or the “ACT for Veterans  
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION PERIOD FOR**  
2 **EMERGENCY TREATMENT IN NON-DEPART-**  
3 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FA-**  
4 **CILITIES.**

5 (a) AUTHORIZATION PERIOD EXTENDED.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a)(3) of section  
7 1703 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

8 (A) by striking “A covered veteran” and  
9 inserting “(A) Except as provided by subpara-  
10 graph (B), a covered veteran”; and

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

13 “(B) In the case of emergency treatment furnished  
14 to a covered veteran by a health care provider specified  
15 in subsection (c) in the course of care or services author-  
16 ized under subparagraph (A), the Secretary may deem  
17 such emergency treatment to be authorized under such  
18 subparagraph if such covered veteran (or an individual  
19 acting on behalf of the covered veteran) or such health  
20 care provider submits to the Secretary a notification in  
21 such form and containing such information and assur-  
22 ances as the Secretary determines appropriate, except the  
23 Secretary may not require such notification to be sub-  
24 mitted earlier than 96 hours after the date on which such  
25 health care provider furnishes such emergency treatment  
26 to such covered veteran.”.

1           (2) EMERGENCY TREATMENT DEFINED.—Sub-  
2           section (o) of such section is amended—

3                   (A) by redesignating paragraph (2) as  
4           paragraph (3); and

5                   (B) by inserting after paragraph (1), the  
6           following new paragraph:

7                   “(2) The term ‘emergency treatment’ has the  
8           meaning given such term in section 1725 of this  
9           title.”.

10          (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
11          subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is one  
12          year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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