

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 41

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure the timely scheduling of appointments for health care at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 9, 2023

Mr. BAIRD (for himself, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. MAST, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. FOXX, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mrs. HINSON, and Ms. HOULAHAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure the timely scheduling of appointments for health care at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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 “VA Same-Day Sched-
5 uling Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT FOR TIMELY SCHEDULING OF AP-**
2 **POINTMENTS AT MEDICAL FACILITIES OF DE-**
3 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Chapter 17 of title 38, United
5 States Code, is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating section 1706A as section
7 1706B; and

8 (2) by inserting after section 1706 the following
9 new section:

10 **“§ 1706A. Management of health care: timely sched-**
11 **uling of appointments at Department fa-**
12 **cilities**

13 “(a) REQUIREMENT FOR SCHEDULING.—In man-
14 aging the provision of hospital care and medical services
15 at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs
16 under this chapter, the Secretary shall ensure that when-
17 ever a covered veteran contacts the Department by tele-
18 phone to request the scheduling of an appointment for
19 care or services for the covered veteran at such a facility,
20 the scheduling for the appointment occurs during that
21 telephone call (regardless of the prospective date of the
22 appointment being scheduled).

23 “(b) COVERED VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section,
24 the term ‘covered veteran’ means a veteran who is enrolled
25 in the system of patient enrollment of the Department
26 under section 1705(a) of this title.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
2 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by striking
3 the item relating to section 1706A and inserting the fol-
4 lowing new items:

“1706A. Management of health care: timely scheduling of appointments at De-
partment facilities.

“1706B. Remediation of medical service lines.”.

5 (c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by sub-
6 section (a) shall apply with respect to requests for appoint-
7 ment scheduling occurring on or after the date that is 120
8 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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