

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To eliminate the sunset date for the Choice Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand eligibility for such program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MCCAIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To eliminate the sunset date for the Choice Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand eligibility for such program, 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 “Permanent Depart-
5 ment of Veterans Affairs Choice Card Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF CHOICE PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT**
7 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

8 (a) **ELIMINATION OF SUNSET.**—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 101 of the Veterans
2 Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014
3 (Public Law 113–146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) is
4 amended—

5 (A) by striking subsection (p); and

6 (B) by redesignating subsections (q), (r),
7 (s), and (t) as subsections (p), (q), (r), and (s),
8 respectively.

9 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section
10 is amended—

11 (A) in subsection (i)(2), by striking “dur-
12 ing the period in which the Secretary is author-
13 ized to carry out this section pursuant to sub-
14 section (p)”;

15 (B) in subsection (p)(2), as redesignated
16 by paragraph (1)(B), by striking subparagraph
17 (F).

18 (b) EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of such sec-
20 tion is amended to read as follows:

21 “(b) ELIGIBLE VETERANS.—A veteran is an eligible
22 veteran for purposes of this section if the veteran is en-
23 rolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department
24 of Veterans Affairs established and operated under section
25 1705 of title 38, United States Code, including any such

1 veteran who has not received hospital care or medical serv-
2 ices from the Department and has contacted the Depart-
3 ment seeking an initial appointment from the Department
4 for the receipt of such care or services.”.

5 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section
6 is amended—

7 (A) in subsection (c)(1)—

8 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
9 graph (A), by striking “In the case of an
10 eligible veteran described in subsection
11 (b)(2)(A), the Secretary shall, at the elec-
12 tion of the eligible veteran” and inserting
13 “The Secretary shall, at the election of an
14 eligible veteran”; and

15 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
16 “described in such subsection” and insert-
17 ing “of the Veterans Health Administra-
18 tion”;

19 (B) in subsection (f)(1), by striking “sub-
20 section (b)(1)” and inserting “subsection (b)”;

21 (C) in subsection (g), by striking para-
22 graph (3); and

23 (D) in subsection (p)(2)(A), as redesign-
24 nated by subsection (a)(1)(B), by striking “,

1 disaggregated by—” and all that follows
2 through “subsection (b)(2)(D)”.

3 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
4 this section shall apply with respect to hospital care and
5 medical services furnished under such section on and after
6 the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment
7 of this Act.