

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 439

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Department of Veterans Affairs to furnish hospital care and medical services outside a State to veterans with service-connected disabilities rated as permanent and total, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 15, 2025

Mr. LALOTA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Department of Veterans Affairs to furnish hospital care and medical services outside a State to veterans with service-connected disabilities rated as permanent and total, 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 “Veterans Foreign Med-
5 ical Coverage Equality and Modernization Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FURNISHING**
2 **OF HOSPITAL CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES**
3 **OUTSIDE A STATE TO VETERANS WITH SERV-**
4 **ICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES RATED AS**
5 **PERMANENT AND TOTAL.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1724 of title 38, United
7 States Code, is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “and (f)” and
9 inserting “(f), and (g)”; and

10 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
11 sections:

12 “(g) The Secretary shall furnish hospital care and
13 medical services outside a State to a veteran with a serv-
14 ice-connected disability rated as permanent and total who
15 is otherwise eligible to receive hospital care and medical
16 services if the Secretary determines that—

17 “(1) the hospital care or medical services fur-
18 nished are consistent with the standard medical
19 practice in the United States; and

20 “(2) in the case of any prescription medication
21 furnished, such medication is approved by the Food
22 and Drug Administration.

23 “(h) In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall
24 ensure that—

25 “(1) reimbursements made to veterans and
26 medical providers can be made by direct deposit pay-

1 ments in such a manner as to expedite such reim-
2 bursements, improve efficiency, and reduce adminis-
3 trative costs; and

4 “(2) the appropriate mobile applications of the
5 Department provide for—

6 “(A) the digital submission and real-time
7 tracking of any forms and supporting docu-
8 mentation required for the receipt of hospital
9 care or medical services, or reimbursement for
10 such care or services, under this section; and

11 “(B) the availability of any benefits au-
12 thorization letter, predetermination letter, or
13 continuity of care document associated with
14 hospital care or medical services furnished
15 under this section.”.

16 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
17 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 90 days
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act and apply with
19 respect to hospital care or medical services furnished on
20 or after such date.

21 (c) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date
22 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans
23 Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the amend-
24 ments made by this Act. Such report shall include an anal-
25 ysis of the implementation of such amendments, any chal-

1 lenges encountered, and the efficacy of the hospital care
2 and medical services furnished pursuant to such amend-
3 ments.

