

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 5261

To amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the limitation on reimbursement for emergency treatment of amounts owed to a third party or for which the veteran is responsible under a health-plan contract.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

Mrs. DINGELL 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 modify the limitation on reimbursement for emergency treatment of amounts owed to a third party or for which the veteran is responsible under a health-plan contract.

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 Emergency  
5       Care Reimbursement Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF LIMITATION ON REIMBURSE-**  
2 **MENT FOR EMERGENCY TREATMENT OF**  
3 **AMOUNTS OWED TO A THIRD PARTY OR FOR**  
4 **WHICH THE VETERAN IS RESPONSIBLE**  
5 **UNDER A HEALTH-PLAN CONTRACT.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1725(c)(4)(D) of title 38,  
7 United States Code, is amended—

8 (1) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting  
9 “(i) The Secretary”;

10 (2) in clause (i), as designated by paragraph  
11 (1), by striking “or similar payment” and inserting  
12 “of less than \$100”; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following new  
14 clause:

15 “(ii) In this subparagraph, the term ‘copayment’  
16 means a fixed amount paid by an individual for a covered  
17 health service received by the individual and does not in-  
18 clude any amount paid for a deductible or coinsurance.”.

19 (b) APPLICATION OF AMENDMENT.—The amend-  
20 ments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to  
21 any reimbursement claim under section 1725 of such title  
22 submitted to the Department of Veterans Affairs for  
23 emergency treatment furnished on or after February 1,  
24 2012, including any such claim submitted by a member  
25 of the certified class seeking relief in *Wolfe v. McDonough*,  
26 No. 18–6091 (U.S. Vet. App.).

1 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 (1) The terms “emergency treatment” and  
3 “health-plan contract” have the meanings given  
4 those terms in section 1725(f) of title 38, United  
5 States Code.

6 (2) The term “reimbursement claim” includes  
7 any claim by a veteran for reimbursement of a co-  
8 payment, deductible, coinsurance, or any other type  
9 of cost share for emergency treatment furnished to  
10 the veteran in a non-Department of Veterans Affairs  
11 facility and made by a veteran who had coverage  
12 under a health-plan contract, including any claim for  
13 the reasonable value of emergency treatment that  
14 was rejected or denied by the Department of Vet-  
15 erans Affairs, whether the rejection or denial was  
16 final or not.

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