

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9316

To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the eligibility of veterans with service-connected disabilities who reside in certain territories or the Freely Associated States for payments or allowances for beneficiary travel.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 15, 2026

Ms. KING-HINDS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the eligibility of veterans with service-connected disabilities who reside in certain territories or the Freely Associated States for payments or allowances for beneficiary travel.

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 “Travel Assistance for
5 Veterans in Medical Deserts Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY OF VETERANS WITH**
2 **SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES WHO RE-**
3 **SIDE IN CERTAIN TERRITORIES OR THE**
4 **FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES FOR PAYMENTS**
5 **OR ALLOWANCES FOR BENEFICIARY TRAVEL.**

6 Section 111(b) of title 38, United States Code, is
7 amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (1)(B)—

9 (A) by striking “rated at 30 percent or
10 more.” and inserting an em dash; and

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

13 “(i) rated at 30 percent or more; or

14 “(ii) without regard to rating in the case
15 of a veteran who resides in a covered jurisdic-
16 tion in which no medical facility of the Depart-
17 ment is located.”; and

18 (2) by adding at the end the following new
19 paragraph:

20 “(5) In this subsection:

21 “(A) The term ‘covered jurisdiction’ means a
22 territory or the Freely Associated States.

23 “(B) The term ‘Freely Associated States’ has
24 the meaning given such term in subsection (h).

25 “(C) The term ‘territory’ has the meaning given
26 such term in section 5 of the Puerto Rico Oversight,

- 1 Management, and Economic Stability Act (Public
- 2 Law 114–187; 48 U.S.C. 2104).”.

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