

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 241

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish standards of access to care for veterans seeking health care from Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 14, 2013

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

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish standards of access to care for veterans seeking health care from Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities, 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 Timely Ac-  
5 cess to Health Care Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ACCESS TO**  
2 **MEDICAL CARE.**

3 (a) STANDARD FOR ACCESS TO CARE.—Section 1706  
4 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at  
5 the end the following new subsection:

6 “(d)(1) In managing the provision of hospital care  
7 and medical services under section 1710(a) of this title,  
8 the Secretary shall ensure that for each veteran seeking  
9 such care or services from a Department medical facility,  
10 the standard for access to care, determined from the date  
11 on which the veteran contacts the Department seeking an  
12 appointment until the date on which a visit with an appro-  
13 priate health care provider is completed, is 30 days.

14 “(2) The Secretary shall periodically review the per-  
15 formance of Department medical facilities compared to the  
16 standard established under paragraph (1). The Secretary  
17 shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of  
18 the Senate and House of Representatives a semi-annual  
19 report providing an assessment of the Department’s per-  
20 formance in meeting that standard.

21 “(3)(A) Not later than 60 days after the end of a  
22 calendar-year quarter, the Secretary shall submit to the  
23 Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House  
24 of Representatives a report for that calendar-year quarter  
25 on the experience of the Department during the quarter  
26 covered by the report with respect to waiting times for

1 veterans seeking appointments at Department medical fa-  
2 cilities.

3 “(B) Each report under subparagraph (A) shall in-  
4 clude each of the following:

5 “(i) The total number of veterans waiting by  
6 the following categories:

7 “(I) Those waiting under 30 days for  
8 scheduled appointments.

9 “(II) Those waiting over 30 days but less  
10 than 60 days.

11 “(III) Those waiting over 60 days but less  
12 than 4 months.

13 “(IV) Those waiting over 4 months but  
14 who cannot be scheduled within 6 months.

15 “(V) Any remaining veterans who cannot  
16 be scheduled, with the reasons therefor.

17 “(ii) For each category set forth in subpara-  
18 graph (A), distinctions between—

19 “(I) waiting times for primary care and  
20 specialty care; and

21 “(II) waiting times for veterans who are  
22 newly enrolled versus those who were enrolled  
23 before October 1, 2001.

24 “(iii) The number of veterans who have enrolled  
25 in the patient enrollment system under section 1705

1 of this title but have not since such enrollment  
2 sought care at a Department medical facility.”.

3 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (d) of section  
4 1706 of title 38, United States Code, shall apply with re-  
5 spect to hospital care and medical services provided on or  
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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