

S 963

Veterans' Health Care and Equitable Access Act of 2005

Congress: 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Apr 28, 2005

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Apr 28, 2005)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/senate-bill/963>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]

Party: Republican • **State:** SD • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Martinez, Mel [R-FL]	R · FL		Jun 6, 2005
Sen. Johnson, Tim [D-SD]	D · SD		Jun 8, 2005
Sen. Harkin, Tom [D-IA]	D · IA		Jun 27, 2005
Sen. Lincoln, Blanche L. [D-AR]	D · AR		Jul 21, 2005
Sen. Snowe, Olympia J. [R-ME]	R · ME		Jul 27, 2005

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Apr 29, 2005

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Veterans' Health Care and Equitable Access Act of 2005 - Directs the Secretary of the Treasury to make specified funds available to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Secretary) for Veterans Health Administration FY 2007 programs.

Prohibits fund use for: (1) construction, acquisition, or alteration of veterans' medical facilities (other than for certain repairs); or (2) grants for the construction of State home facilities for veterans' domiciliary, nursing home, and hospital care.

Directs the Secretary to conduct a pilot program to improve health care access for rural veterans.

Provides: (1) for travel reimbursement for veterans receiving treatment in VA facilities at the same as for Federal employees on official business; (2) that the disability rating for a veteran who loses a limb as a result of a service-connected injury shall be at least 50 percent; and (3) that if a member of the Armed Forces, National Guard, or Reserve dies while on active service or active status such individual's child enrolled in any Federal child care program shall continue receiving such services for 24 months after such death.

Amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act (SSA) to direct the Secretary and the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish a Medicare subvention project under which HHS shall reimburse the VA for Medicare health care services furnished to Medicare-eligible veterans in VA facilities.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 28, 2005:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 28, 2005:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S6400-6401)
- **Apr 28, 2005:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.