

S 2009

Rural Veterans Improvement Act of 2014

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Feb 10, 2014

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (Feb 10, 2014)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/2009>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NM • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Heller, Dean [R-NV]	R · NV		Feb 10, 2014
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Feb 12, 2014
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Apr 29, 2014
Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]	R · KS		May 12, 2014
Sen. Pryor, Mark L. [D-AR]	D · AR		May 20, 2014

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 10, 2014

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 S 2425	Related bill	Jun 4, 2014: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Rural Veterans Improvement Act of 2014 - Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide mental health care to veterans who have a mental health issue resulting from a health condition incurred or aggravated in the line of duty and who live in a rural area or highly rural area through shared health facilities or by contracting with or providing payments to mental health care providers that are not otherwise affiliated with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) if the Secretary makes specified determinations related to the lack of accessibility to or availability of recommended or requested care from the VA.

Requires the Secretary to report on the effectiveness of complementary and alternative medicine used by the VA in treating veterans with mental health conditions resulting from a health condition that was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

Authorizes the Secretary to: (1) award grants of up to \$100,000 to state veterans agencies, veterans service organizations, and/or tribal organizations to provide transportation to and from medical centers to veterans in rural and highly rural areas who would otherwise be eligible for reimbursement for or payment of travel expenses by the VA; and (2) carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of providing a housing allowance to health care providers of the VA who accept assignment at rural or highly rural community-based outpatient clinics.

Directs the Secretary to establish a program to train health care professionals for assignment at community-based outpatient clinics that predominantly serve veterans who live in rural and highly rural areas.

Requires the VA Secretary and the Secretary of Defense (DOD) to jointly establish a program to encourage an individual who serves in the Armed Forces with a military occupational specialty relating to the provision of health care to seek employment with the Veterans Health Administration when the individual is discharged or released from service or is contemplating separating from such service.

Directs the Secretary to: (1) conduct a periodic assessment of community-based outpatient clinics in rural and highly rural areas to determine whether expansion and improvement of such clinics is feasible or advisable, and (2) report on the feasibility and advisability of establishing a Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center or Polytrauma Network Site in each area in which the nearest such center or site is more than 300 miles away.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 10, 2014:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 10, 2014:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.