

S 1261

Veterans Emergency Room Relief Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: May 25, 2017

Current Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 115-320.

Latest Action: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 115-320. (Jul 11, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1261>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]

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

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	Jul 11, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 2785	Identical bill	Jun 6, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Veterans Emergency Room Relief Act of 2017

This bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to enter into contracts under which the VA pays health care providers the reasonable costs of urgent care provided to eligible veterans at non-VA facilities. An "eligible veteran" is one who: (1) is enrolled in the VA health care system, and (2) has received health care through the VA during the two years preceding the date on which the veteran receives urgent care.

The VA shall establish a cost-sharing amount that a veteran shall pay to the VA to receive such urgent care. Such amount shall not apply to a veteran who: (1) is admitted to a hospital for treatment or observation after receiving urgent care, or (2) is receiving urgent care for the treatment of a service-connected disability or condition.

The VA shall: (1) be considered the primary payer for the urgent care provided, and (2) ensure that all types of urgent care providers have an opportunity to enter into such a contract.

The VA also shall establish a cost-sharing amount that veterans shall pay to receive care at a VA emergency room. Such amount shall not apply to a veteran who: (1) is receiving care for a service-connected disability or condition, (2) meets a hardship exception, or (3) is admitted to a hospital for treatment or observation after receiving care at a VA emergency room.

The VA may not require a veteran to pay multiple cost-sharing amounts if the veteran seeks urgent care under this bill and care at a VA emergency room for the same condition during a period determined by the VA.

The VA shall report every two years on the use by veterans of urgent care facilities and of VA emergency room facilities.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 11, 2017:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 115-320.
- **May 25, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 25, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.