

HR 2785

Veterans Emergency Room Relief Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jun 6, 2017

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Jun 6, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/2785>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Higgins, Clay [R-LA-3]

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

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. LaMalfa, Doug [R-CA-1]	R · CA		Jun 6, 2017
Rep. Reed, Tom [R-NY-23]	R · NY		Jun 7, 2017
Rep. Himes, James A. [D-CT-4]	D · CT		Jul 10, 2017
Rep. Jones, Walter B., Jr. [R-NC-3]	R · NC		Aug 29, 2017
Rep. Ratcliffe, John [R-TX-4]	R · TX		Jan 29, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 6, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 S 1261	Identical bill	Jul 11, 2017: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 115-320.

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

- **Jun 6, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 6, 2017:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
- **Jun 6, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.