

S 544

A bill to amend the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to modify the termination date for the Veterans Choice Program, and for other purposes.

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Mar 7, 2017

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 115-26.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 115-26. (Apr 19, 2017)

Law: 115-26 (Enacted Apr 19, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/544>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]

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

Cosponsors (21 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Mar 7, 2017
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Mar 7, 2017
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Mar 7, 2017
Sen. Heitkamp, Heidi [D-ND]	D · ND		Mar 7, 2017
Sen. Isakson, Johnny [R-GA]	R · GA		Mar 7, 2017
Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Mar 7, 2017
Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]	R · KS		Mar 7, 2017
Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD]	R · SD		Mar 7, 2017
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Mar 7, 2017
Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]	D · WV		Mar 8, 2017
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Mar 9, 2017
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Mar 14, 2017
Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID]	R · ID		Mar 14, 2017
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		Mar 14, 2017
Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]	D · FL		Mar 14, 2017
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Mar 15, 2017
Sen. Hoeven, John [R-ND]	R · ND		Mar 15, 2017
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Mar 21, 2017
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Mar 21, 2017
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Mar 28, 2017
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Apr 3, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Discharged From	Apr 3, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 369	Related bill	Mar 29, 2017: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 36.
115 S 86	Related bill	Jan 10, 2017: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Summary (as of Apr 19, 2017)

(This measure has not been amended since it was introduced. The expanded summary of the Senate passed version is repeated here.)

(Sec. 1) This bill amends the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to eliminate the August 7, 2017, sunset date for the Veterans Choice Program, thus allowing the program to operate until all of the money in the Veterans Choice Fund is expended.

(Sec. 2) The bill makes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) the primary payer (currently the VA is the secondary payer) for medical care relating to non-service connected disabilities and recovery of costs from third parties for certain care under the program.

(Sec. 3) The VA may share medical information with a non-VA entity (including private entities and other federal agencies) that provides veterans with authorized hospital care or medical services. Such entity may not redisclose or use such information for a purpose other than that for which the disclosure was made.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 19, 2017:** Signed by President.
- **Apr 19, 2017:** Became Public Law No: 115-26.
- **Apr 7, 2017:** Presented to President.
- **Apr 5, 2017:** Mr. Roe (TN) moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Apr 5, 2017:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H2722-2726)
- **Apr 5, 2017:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on S. 544.
- **Apr 5, 2017:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H2722)
- **Apr 5, 2017:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H2722)
- **Apr 5, 2017:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Apr 3, 2017:** Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs discharged by Unanimous Consent.(consideration: CR S2163-2164)
- **Apr 3, 2017:** Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs discharged by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S2163-2164)
- **Apr 3, 2017:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate without amendment by Voice Vote.(text: CR S2163)
- **Apr 3, 2017:** Passed Senate without amendment by Voice Vote. (text: CR S2163)
- **Apr 3, 2017:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Apr 3, 2017:** Received in the House.
- **Apr 3, 2017:** Held at the desk.
- **Mar 7, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 7, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.