S 3603

Veterans Health Care Freedom Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)
Chamber: Senate
Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security
Introduced: Feb 8, 2022
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 8, 2022)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/3603

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN]
Party: Republican • **State:** TN • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Tuberville, Tommy [R-AL]	R · AL		Feb 8, 2022
Sen. Braun, Mike [R-IN]	R · IN		Jun 9, 2022
Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD]	R · SD		Jun 23, 2022
Sen. Sullivan, Dan [R-AK]	R · AK		Nov 14, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 8, 2022

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 2910	Related bill	**Jul 14, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Summary (as of Feb 8, 2022)

Veterans Health Care Freedom Act

This bill requires the Center for Innovation for Care and Payment within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to implement a three-year pilot program to improve the ability of veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system to access hospital care, medical services, and extended care services through the covered care system by providing such veterans with the ability to choose health care providers. Under the bill, the *covered care system* includes VA medical facilities, health care providers participating in the Veterans Community Care Program (VCCP), and eligible entities or providers that have entered into a Veterans Care Agreement.

A veteran participating in the program may elect to receive care at any provider in the covered care system.

The pilot program removes certain requirements (e.g., location of the veteran) to access care at VA and non-VA facilities. After four years, the bill eliminates the requirements for accessing care under the VCCP and Veterans Care Agreements and requires the VA to provide such care under the same conditions of the pilot program. Additionally, after four years, veterans may receive care at a VA medical facility regardless of whether the facility is in the same Veterans Integrated Service Network as the veteran.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 8, 2022:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 8, 2022:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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