



H.R. 612 - Returning Servicemember VA Healthcare Insurance Act of 2007

Floor Situation

H.R. 612, as amended, is being considered on the floor by suspending the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Bob Filner (D-CA) on January 22, 2007. The bill was ordered to be reported, amended, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, by voice vote, on May 15, 2007.

H.R. 612, as amended, is expected to be considered on May 23, 2007.

Summary

H.R. 612, as amended, extends the period of eligibility for veterans who served in combat during or after the Persian Gulf War to receive VA healthcare from 2 years to 5 years. The 5 year healthcare provides medical care and services to veterans even if there is not sufficient evidence that the ongoing condition is a result of service related activities.

The bill also allows veterans whose eligibility period had ended prior to enactment of the bill and did not enroll in VA health care to be eligible for an additional 3 years of VA health care services.

Background

The VA, under current law, is authorized to provide medical care and services to veterans even if there is not sufficient evidence that the ongoing condition is a result of service related activities. The medical care and service may continue for 2 years following the veteran's separation from the Armed Forces. The 2 year period applies to veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War, or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998.

Cost

"CBO estimates that implementing this bill would cost about \$115 million over the 2008-2012 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues." *Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate*

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