

111<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 1016

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## AN ACT

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide advance appropriations authority for certain accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Health Care  
3 Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009”.

4 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

5 It is the sense of Congress that the provision of  
6 health care services to veterans could be more effectively  
7 and efficiently planned and managed if funding was pro-  
8 vided for the management and provision of such services  
9 in the form of advance appropriations.

10 **SEC. 3. PRESIDENTS’ BUDGET SUBMISSIONS.**

11 Section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, is  
12 amended by adding at the end the following new para-  
13 graph:

14 “(36) information on estimates of appropria-  
15 tions for the fiscal year following the fiscal year for  
16 which the budget is submitted for the following ac-  
17 counts of the Department of Veterans Affairs:

18 “(A) Medical Services.

19 “(B) Medical Support and Compliance.

20 “(C) Medical Facilities.

21 “(D) Information Technology Systems.

22 “(E) Medical and Prosthetic Research.”.

1 **SEC. 4. ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CERTAIN AC-**  
2 **COUNTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**  
3 **AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CERTAIN AC-  
5 COUNTS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 38, United  
7 States Code, is amended by inserting after section  
8 116 the following new section:

9 **“§ 117. Advance appropriations for certain accounts**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year, beginning  
11 with fiscal year 2011, discretionary new budget authority  
12 provided in an appropriations Act for the appropriations  
13 accounts of the Department specified in subsection (c)  
14 shall—

15 “(1) be made available for that fiscal year; and

16 “(2) include, for each such appropriations ac-  
17 count, advance discretionary new budget authority  
18 that first becomes available for the first fiscal year  
19 after the budget year.

20 “(b) ESTIMATES REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall in-  
21 clude in documents submitted to Congress in support of  
22 the President’s budget submitted pursuant to section 1105  
23 of title 31, United States Code, detailed estimates of the  
24 funds necessary for the accounts of the Department speci-  
25 fied in subsection (c) for the fiscal year following the fiscal  
26 year for which the budget is submitted.

1           “(c) ACCOUNTS SPECIFIED.—The accounts specified  
2 in this subsection are the following accounts of the De-  
3 partment of Veterans Affairs:

4           “(1) Medical Services.

5           “(2) Medical Support and Compliance.

6           “(3) Medical Facilities.

7           “(4) Information Technology Systems.

8           “(5) Medical and Prosthetic Research.

9           “(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than July 31 of  
10 each year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress an an-  
11 nual report on the sufficiency of the Department’s re-  
12 sources for the next fiscal year beginning after the date  
13 of the submittal of the report for the provision of medical  
14 care. Such report shall also include estimates of the work-  
15 load and demand data for that fiscal year.”.

16           (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
17 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended  
18 by inserting after the item relating to section 116  
19 the following new item:

“117. Advance appropriations for certain accounts.”.

1 **SEC. 5. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY ON ADEQUACY**  
2 **AND ACCURACY OF BASELINE MODEL PRO-**  
3 **JECTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VET-**  
4 **ERANS AFFAIRS FOR HEALTH CARE EXPENDI-**  
5 **TURES.**

6 (a) **STUDY OF ADEQUACY AND ACCURACY OF BASE**  
7 **LINE MODEL PROJECTIONS.**—The Comptroller General  
8 shall conduct a study of the adequacy and accuracy of the  
9 budget projections made by the Enrollee Health Care Pro-  
10 jection Model (in this section referred to as the “Model”),  
11 its equivalent, or other methodologies utilized for the pur-  
12 pose of estimating and projecting health care expenditures  
13 of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to the  
14 fiscal year involved and the subsequent four fiscal years.

15 (b) **REPORTS.**—

16 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than the date of  
17 each year in 2011, 2012, and 2013, on which the  
18 President submits the budget request for the next  
19 fiscal year under section 1105 of title 31, United  
20 States Code, the Comptroller General shall submit to  
21 the appropriate committees of Congress and to the  
22 Secretary of Veterans Affairs a report.

23 (2) **ELEMENTS.**—Each report under this para-  
24 graph shall include, for the fiscal year concerning  
25 the year for which the budget is submitted, the fol-  
26 lowing:

1 (A) A statement whether the amount re-  
2 quested in the budget of the President for ex-  
3 penditures of the Department for health care in  
4 such fiscal year is consistent with anticipated  
5 expenditures of the Department for health care  
6 in such fiscal year as determined utilizing the  
7 Model.

8 (B) The basis for such statement.

9 (C) Such additional information as the  
10 Comptroller General determines appropriate.

11 (3) AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.—Each re-  
12 port submitted under this subsection shall be made  
13 available to the public by the Comptroller General.

14 (4) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS  
15 DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appro-  
16 priate committees of Congress” means—

17 (A) the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs,  
18 Appropriations, and the Budget of the Senate;  
19 and

20 (B) the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs,  
21 Appropriations, and the Budget of the House of  
22 Representatives.

23 **SEC. 6. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

24 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-  
25 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall

1 submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs, Appro-  
2 priations, and the Budget of the Senate and House of  
3 Representatives a report on the requirements of this Act  
4 and the amendments made by this Act. Such report shall  
5 include—

6           (1) the Secretary's plans for improving the ca-  
7           pability of the Department of Veterans Affairs to  
8           better and more accurately estimate future health  
9           care costs and demands; and

10           (2) a description of impediments, statutory or  
11           otherwise, to providing future year estimates and ad-  
12           vance appropriations for the Medical Services, Med-  
13           ical Support and Compliance, Medical Facilities, In-  
14           formation Technology Systems, and Medical and  
15           Prosthetic Research accounts of the Department.

Passed the House of Representatives June 23, 2009.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

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