

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2412

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to consider the best interest of the veteran when determining whether the veteran should receive certain contracted health care.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 18, 2013

Mr. BARBER (for himself and Mr. HECK of Nevada) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to consider the best interest of the veteran when determining whether the veteran should receive certain contracted health care.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Health Ac-
5 cess Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DETERMINATION OF CONTRACT CARE AUTHORITY**
2 **FOR HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF VETERANS.**

3 Section 1703 of title 38, United States Code, is
4 amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “When De-
6 partment facilities” and everything that follows
7 through “required,” and inserting “In any case de-
8 scribed in subsection (e)(1),”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
10 section:

11 “(e) ELIGIBILITY.—(1) A case described in this para-
12 graph is any case—

13 “(A) when Department facilities are not capable
14 of furnishing—

15 “(i) economical hospital care or medical
16 services because of geographical inaccessibility;
17 or

18 “(ii) the care or services required; or

19 “(B) in which a physician of the Department
20 determines that it is in the best interest of a veteran
21 to receive hospital or medical services furnished in a
22 non-Department facility in accordance with sub-
23 section (a).

24 “(2) The Secretary shall determine whether or not
25 to furnish to a veteran care or services in a non-Depart-
26 ment facility pursuant to this section by the date that is

- 1 30 days after the date on which the veteran requests such
- 2 care or services.”.

