

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3709

To make permanent the pilot program administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs regarding enhanced contract care authority for the health care needs of veterans located in highly rural areas, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 8, 2015

Mr. POLIQUIN (for himself and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To make permanent the pilot program administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs regarding enhanced contract care authority for the health care needs of veterans located in highly rural areas, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Helping our Rural Vet-  
5 erans Receive Health Care Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROGRAM OF ENHANCED CONTRACT CARE AU-**  
2 **THORITY FOR HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF VET-**  
3 **ERANS IN HIGHLY RURAL AREAS.**

4 (a) PERMANENT PROJECT ARCH.—Subsection (a)  
5 of section 403 of the Veterans’ Mental Health and Other  
6 Care Improvements Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–387;  
7 38 U.S.C. 1703 note) is amended—

8 (1) by striking paragraph (3);

9 (2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-  
10 graph (3); and

11 (3) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated—

12 (A) by striking “Veterans Integrated Serv-  
13 ice Networks (and such other locations as the  
14 Secretary considers appropriate)” and inserting  
15 “locations”; and

16 (B) by adding at the end the following new  
17 subparagraph:

18 “(F) Such other locations that the Sec-  
19 retary determines necessary to ensure that all  
20 covered veterans may participate in the pro-  
21 gram.”.

22 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section 403  
23 is further amended—

24 (1) by striking “pilot program” each place it  
25 appears and inserting “program”; and

1           (2) in subsection (k)(2), by striking “regard-  
2           ing” and all that follows through the period and in-  
3           serting “regarding the continuation of the pro-  
4           gram.”.

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