

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4125

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the feasibility of the Secretary entering into public-private partnerships to improve the access of veterans to medical facilities in densely populated communities and rural communities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 19, 2015

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HONDA, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. SIRES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the feasibility of the Secretary entering into public-private partnerships to improve the access of veterans to medical facilities in densely populated communities and rural communities.

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. STUDY ON FEASIBILITY OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE**
2 **PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPROVE ACCESS OF VET-**
3 **ERANS TO MEDICAL FACILITIES IN DENSELY**
4 **POPULATED COMMUNITIES AND RURAL COM-**
5 **MUNITIES.**

6 (a) **STUDY.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
7 conduct a study on the feasibility of the Secretary entering
8 into covered public-private partnerships to improve the ac-
9 cess of veterans to medical facilities of the Department
10 of Veterans Affairs in densely populated communities and
11 rural communities. Such study shall include the following:

12 (1) An evaluation of the ability of veterans to
13 access medical facilities of the Department in dense-
14 ly populated communities and rural communities, in-
15 cluding the identification of issues that diminish
16 such access in such communities, including with re-
17 spect to such diminished access that affects only cer-
18 tain populations of veterans or certain kinds of
19 health care.

20 (2) An evaluation of whether the requirement
21 for Congressional approval for major medical facility
22 leases under section 8104 of title 38, United States
23 Code, delays such access.

24 (3) An evaluation of how covered public-private
25 partnerships may improve the ability of veterans to

1 access medical facilities of the Department in dense-
2 ly populated communities and rural communities.

3 (4) An evaluation of whether underused medical
4 facilities of the Department meet building codes.

5 (5) Recommendations by the Secretary on how
6 to improve such access, including with respect to any
7 regulatory or legislative actions required to make
8 such improvements.

9 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
10 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
11 to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of
12 Representatives and the Senate a report containing the
13 study under subsection (a).

14 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 (1) The term “covered public-private partner-
16 ships” means leases or other agreements entered
17 into by the Secretary with non-Department facilities
18 under which the Secretary will establish a medical
19 facility of the Department in the unused or
20 underused space of the non-Department facility.

21 (2) The term “densely populated communities”
22 means communities that are in an urbanized area or
23 an urban cluster, as determined by the Bureau of
24 the Census.

1 (3) The term “non-Department facilities” has
2 the meaning given that term in section 1701 of title
3 38, United States Code.

4 (4) The term “rural communities” means the
5 rural areas under the jurisdiction of the Office of
6 Rural Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs
7 established by section 7308 of title 38, United
8 States Code.

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