

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4556

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish dental care in the same manner as any other medical service, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 5, 2017

Ms. SHEA-PORTER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish dental care in the same manner as any other medical service, 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. REQUIREMENT THAT SECRETARY OF VET-**
4 **ERANS AFFAIRS FURNISH DENTAL CARE IN**
5 **THE SAME MANNER AS ANY OTHER MEDICAL**
6 **SERVICE.**

7 (a) DENTAL BENEFITS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Title 38, United States
2 Code, is amended—

3 (A) in section 1701(6), by striking “as de-
4 scribed in sections 1710 and 1712 of this title”;

5 (B) in section 1710(c), by striking the sec-
6 ond sentence;

7 (C) in section 1712—

8 (i) by striking subsections (a) and (b);

9 (ii) by redesignating subsections (c),
10 (d), (e), and (f) as subsections (a), (b), (c),
11 and (d), respectively; and

12 (iii) in subsection (a), as redesignated
13 by subparagraph (B)—

14 (I) by striking “Dental appli-
15 ances” and inserting “The Secretary
16 may furnish dentures, dental appli-
17 ances”; and

18 (II) by striking “to be furnished
19 by the Secretary under this section
20 may be procured by the Secretary”
21 and inserting “under this section and
22 may procure such appliances”; and

23 (D) by striking section 2062.

24 (2) PHASED ELIGIBILITY.—The amendments
25 made by paragraph (1) shall apply as follows:

1 (A) In the case of an individual who is eli-
2 gible for dental services and appliances fur-
3 nished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
4 under chapter 17 of title 38, United States
5 Code, on the date of the enactment of this Act,
6 beginning on the date of the enactment of this
7 Act.

8 (B) In the case of a veteran who is not so
9 eligible on the date of the enactment of this Act
10 and who is described in paragraph (1) or (2) of
11 subsection (a) of section 1705 of such title, be-
12 ginning on the date that is one year after the
13 date of the enactment of this Act.

14 (C) In the case of a veteran who is not so
15 eligible on the date of the enactment of this Act
16 and who is described in paragraph (3) or (4) of
17 subsection (a) of section 1705 of such title, be-
18 ginning on the date that is two years after the
19 date of the enactment of this Act.

20 (D) In the case of a veteran who is not so
21 eligible on the date of the enactment of this Act
22 and who is described in paragraph (5) or (6) of
23 subsection (a) of section 1705 of such title, be-
24 ginning on the date that is three years after the
25 date of the enactment of this Act.

1 (E) In the case of a veteran who is not so
2 eligible on the date of the enactment of this Act
3 and who is described in paragraph (7) or (8) of
4 subsection (a) of section 1705 of such title, be-
5 ginning on the date that is four years after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act.

7 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title 38, United
8 States Code, is further amended—

9 (1) in section 1525(a), by striking “medicines
10 under section 1712(d)” and inserting “medicines
11 under section 1712(b)”; and

12 (2) in section 1703(a)(7), by striking “, for a
13 veteran described in section 1712(a)(1)(F) of this
14 title”.

15 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—Such title is further
16 amended—

17 (1) in section 1712, in the heading for such sec-
18 tion, by striking “**Dental care**” and inserting
19 “**Appliances**”;

20 (2) in the table of sections at the beginning of
21 chapter 17, by striking the item relating to section
22 1712 and inserting the following new item:

“1712. Appliances; drugs and medicines for certain disabled veterans; vac-
cines.”;

23 and

1 (3) in the table of sections at the beginning of
2 chapter 20, by striking the item relating to section
3 2062.

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