

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1290

To ensure the ability of covered beneficiaries under the TRICARE program to access care under a health plan under such program in each TRICARE program region, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 12, 2015

Mr. ROUNDS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To ensure the ability of covered beneficiaries under the TRICARE program to access care under a health plan under such program in each TRICARE program region, 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 “TRICARE Portability  
5 Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. PORTABILITY OF HEALTH PLANS UNDER THE**  
7 **TRICARE PROGRAM.**

8 (a) HEALTH PLAN PORTABILITY.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense  
2 shall ensure that covered beneficiaries under the  
3 TRICARE program who are covered under a health  
4 plan under such program are able to seamlessly ac-  
5 cess health care under such health plan in each  
6 TRICARE program region.

7           (2) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days  
8 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
9 retary shall prescribe regulations to carry out para-  
10 graph (1).

11          (b) MECHANISMS TO ENSURE PORTABILITY.—In  
12 carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall do the fol-  
13 lowing:

14           (1) Provide for the automatic electronic trans-  
15 fer of demographic, enrollment, and claims informa-  
16 tion between the contractors responsible for admin-  
17 istering the TRICARE program in each TRICARE  
18 region when covered beneficiaries under the  
19 TRICARE program relocate between such regions.

20           (2) Ensure such covered beneficiaries are able  
21 to obtain a new primary health care provider within  
22 ten days of undergoing such relocation.

23           (3) Develop a process for such covered bene-  
24 ficiaries to receive urgent care without  
25 preauthorization while undergoing such relocation.

1 (c) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall—

2 (1) publish information on any modifications  
3 made pursuant to subsection (a) with respect to the  
4 ability of covered beneficiaries under the TRICARE  
5 program who are covered under a health plan under  
6 such program to access health care in each  
7 TRICARE region on the primary Internet website of  
8 the Department that is available to the public; and

9 (2) ensure that such information is made avail-  
10 able on the primary Internet website that is avail-  
11 able to the public of each current contractor respon-  
12 sible for administering the TRICARE program.

13 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “cov-  
14 ered beneficiary” and “TRICARE program” have the  
15 meaning given such terms in section 1072 of title 10,  
16 United States Code.

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