## S. 1798

To provide for the automatic enrollment of demobilizing members of the National Guard and Reserve in health care and dental care programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 19, 2009

Mr. Sanders introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

## A BILL

- To provide for the automatic enrollment of demobilizing members of the National Guard and Reserve in health care and dental care programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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 "Automatic Reserve
  - 5 Component Enrollment Act of 2009".

1	SEC. 2. AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT OF DEMOBILIZING MEM-
2	BERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RE-
3	SERVE IN HEALTH CARE AND DENTAL CARE
4	PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VET-
5	ERANS AFFAIRS.
6	(a) In General.—Not later than 180 days after the
7	date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
8	and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly take
9	appropriate actions to provide for the automatic enroll-
10	ment of members of the National Guard and Reserve who
11	are being discharged or released from active duty in the
12	Armed Forces in the health care and dental care programs
13	for veterans of the Department of Veterans Affairs during
14	the participation of such members in the demobilization
15	and discharge process used for members of the Reserve
16	components of the Armed Forces.
17	(b) Enrollment.—
18	(1) PROTECTION OF PRIVACY.—Any enrollment
19	activities required of members under subsection (a)
20	shall provide appropriate protections for the privacy
21	of such members and their personal information in
22	accordance with applicable requirements of law.
23	(2) Assistance.—
24	(A) In general.—In providing for the en-
25	rollment of members as described in subsection
26	(a), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall pro-

vide members assistance in the completion of any enrollment activities required under such subsection. Such assistance shall be provided during the demobilization and discharge process of such members utilizing such personnel of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including personnel of the Veterans Health Administration and the Veterans Benefits Administration, as the Secretary shall assign for such purposes.

- (B) Education and outreach.—When providing assistance under subparagraph (A) to members described in subsection (a), the personnel of the Department providing such assistance shall also provide information to such members about the programs, benefits, and services of the Department for which they may be eligible, including how such members can apply for and access such programs, benefits, and services.
- (3) Facilities and other resources shall ensure that the facilities and other resources (including space and computer facilities) for the demobilization and discharge process used for members of Reserve components of the Armed Forces include adequate facilities and re-

1	sources for the performance by members of any en-
2	rollment activities required under subsection (a) and
3	any assistance in the performance of such activities
4	under paragraph (2).
5	(c) Construction.—Nothing in this section shall be
6	construed to require a member of a Reserve component
7	of the Armed Forces to participate in any health care or
8	dental care program or use any service of the Department
9	of Veterans Affairs.
10	(d) Reports.—
11	(1) In General.—Not later than one year
12	after the date of the enactment of this Act and each
13	year thereafter for five years, the Secretary of De-
14	fense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
15	jointly submit a report on the implementation of the
16	requirements of this section to—
17	(A) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs
18	and the Committee on Appropriations of the
19	Senate; and
20	(B) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs
21	and the Committee on Appropriations of the
22	House of Representatives.
23	(2) Contents.—The report required by para-
24	graph (1) shall include the following:

1	(A) A description of the activities under-
2	taken by the Secretary of Defense and the Sec-
3	retary of Veterans Affairs to carry out the re-
4	quirements of this section.
5	(B) An assessment of the effect of such ac-
6	tivities on—
7	(i) the enrollment of members of the
8	Reserve components of the Armed Forces
9	in health care and dental care programs
10	for veterans of the Department of Veterans
11	Affairs; and
12	(ii) the participation of such members
13	in such programs.
14	(C) An assessment of the potential budg-
15	etary impact and demand for services that ac-
16	tions taken under subsection (a) may have on
17	the Department of Veterans Affairs and any
18	need for additional staff or resources to meet
19	that demand.
20	(D) Such recommendations for legislative
21	or administrative action as the Secretary of De-
22	fense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
23	jointly consider appropriate in order to improve
24	or enhance the requirements of this section so

as to further facilitate the enrollment of mem-

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bers of the Reserve components of the Armed
Forces in health care and dental care programs
for veterans of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

- (E) Such other matters with respect to the requirements of this section as Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs jointly consider appropriate.
- 9 (e) ENROLLMENT DEFINED.—In this section, the term "enrollment" means, with respect to enrolling a 10 member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces in 12 a health care or dental care program for veterans of the Department of Veterans Affairs, collecting and recording appropriate information about such member in the record 14 15 keeping system of the Department of Veterans Affairs to facilitate participation of such member in such program 16 if such member elects such participation and is eligible for 18 such participation.

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