

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2263

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reimburse the cost of transportation by ambulance for highly rural veterans seeking care under the laws administered by the Secretary, regardless of whether such veteran qualifies for payments or allowances for beneficiary travel.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 12, 2023

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

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reimburse the cost of transportation by ambulance for highly rural veterans seeking care under the laws administered by the Secretary, regardless of whether such veteran qualifies for payments or allowances for beneficiary travel.

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 “The Rural Vital Emer-  
5 gency Transportation Services (VETS) Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REIMBURSEMENT OF AMBULANCE COST FOR CARE**  
2 **FOR HIGHLY RURAL VETERANS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Under regulations prescribed by  
4 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary shall pay,  
5 or reimburse a highly rural veteran for, the cost of trans-  
6 porting the veteran by ambulance, including air ambu-  
7 lance, to a provider of the Department of Veterans Affairs  
8 or a non-Department provider for care authorized under  
9 the laws administered by the Secretary, or for which sub-  
10 sequent payment or reimbursement is authorized under  
11 the laws administered by the Secretary, regardless of  
12 whether the veteran qualifies for payments or allowances  
13 for beneficiary travel under section 111 of title 38, United  
14 States Code.

15 (b) HIGHLY RURAL VETERAN DEFINED.—In this  
16 section, the term “highly rural veteran” means a veteran  
17 who is located in an area rated as a 10 or higher under  
18 the rural-urban commuting areas coding system of the De-  
19 partment of Agriculture.

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