

105<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3702

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with the authority to reimburse veterans enrolled in the veterans health care system for the cost of emergency care or services received in non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 22, 1998

Mr. EVANS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with the authority to reimburse veterans enrolled in the veterans health care system for the cost of emergency care or services received in non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities.

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 “Veterans’ Access to  
5       Emergency Health Care Act of 1998”.

1 **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE IN NON-DEPARTMENT**  
2 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES FOR EN-**  
3 **ROLLED VETERANS.**

4 (a) **CONTRACT CARE.**—Section 1703(a)(3) of title  
5 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting “who is  
6 enrolled under section 1705 of this title or who is” after  
7 “health of a veteran”.

8 (b) **DEFINITION OF MEDICAL SERVICES.**—Section  
9 1701(6) of such title is amended—

10 (1) by striking out “and” at the end of sub-  
11 paragraph (A);

12 (2) by striking out the period at the end of sub-  
13 paragraph (B) and inserting in lieu thereof “; and”;  
14 and

15 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the fol-  
16 lowing new subparagraph:

17 “(C) emergency care, or reimbursement for  
18 such care, as described in sections 1703(a)(3) and  
19 1728(a)(2)(E) of this title.”.

20 (c) **REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR EMER-**  
21 **GENCY CARE.**—Section 1728(a)(2) of such title is amend-  
22 ed—

23 (1) by striking out “or” before “(D)”;

24 (2) by inserting before the semicolon at the end  
25 the following: “, or (E) for any medical emergency

1       which poses a serious threat to the life or health of  
2       a veteran enrolled under section 1705 of this title”.

3       (d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by  
4 this section shall apply with respect to care or services  
5 provided on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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