

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

# H. R. 5260

To provide that any reduction in the hours of operation of Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center emergency rooms may be implemented only after notice is provided to Congress and a period of 180 days has elapsed.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 2, 2006

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire (for himself and Mr. BASS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To provide that any reduction in the hours of operation of Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center emergency rooms may be implemented only after notice is provided to Congress and a period of 180 days has elapsed.

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. HOURS OF OPERATION AT DEPARTMENT OF**  
4 **VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER EMER-**  
5 **GENCY ROOMS.**

6 (a) FINDING.—The Congress finds that the emer-  
7 gency rooms of the Department of Veterans Affairs med-

1 ical centers play a critical role in providing immediate and  
2 lifesaving care to the Nation's population of veterans of  
3 service in the Armed Forces.

4 (b) NOTICE-AND-WAIT REQUIREMENT.—The Sec-  
5 retary of Veterans Affairs may not implement a reduction  
6 in the hours of operation at an emergency room of any  
7 Department of Veterans Affairs medical center until—

8 (1) the Secretary submits to Congress notice in  
9 writing of the proposed change, together with an ex-  
10 planation of the reasons for the change; and

11 (2) a period of 180 days has passed after the  
12 date on which the notice under paragraph (1) is sub-  
13 mitted.

14 (c) REQUIREMENT.—If following submission of notice  
15 under subsection (b), access to emergency care at any De-  
16 partment of Veterans Affairs medical center is curtailed,  
17 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall take such steps as  
18 necessary to ensure that an alternative is available to vet-  
19 erans served by that medical center so that such veterans  
20 continue to receive immediate access to quality care with-  
21 out creating a new financial burden.

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