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114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1532

To amend the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to modify the distance requirements regarding the eligibility of certain veterans to receive medical care and services from non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 23, 2015

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota (for himself, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. HURD of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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A BILL

To amend the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to modify the distance requirements regarding the eligibility of certain veterans to receive medical care and services from non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Keeping our Promises to Veterans Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY OF VETERANS CHOICE PROGRAM AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROMPT PAYMENT REQUIREMENT.

(a) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) DISTANCE.—Subsection (b)(2)(B) of section 101 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (38 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended to read as follows:

"(B) resides more than 20 miles from the closest medical facility of the Department, including a community-based outpatient clinic, that is able to provide to the veteran the care and services that the veteran seeks;".

(2) WAIT-TIME GOAL.—Subsection (s) of such section is amended to read as follows:

"(s) WAIT-TIME GOALS OF THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.—In this section, the term 'wait-time goals of the Veterans Health Administration' means not more than 15 days from the date on which a veteran requests an appointment for hospital care or medical services from the Department.".

(b) PROMPT PAYMENT.—Section 105(b)(1) of such Act is amended by adding at the end the following new sentences: "The Secretary shall implement such system by not later than the earlier of the date that is 180 days after the date on which the Comptroller General of the United

States submits the report under subsection (c) or February 1, 2016. The Secretary shall publish on the Internet website of the Department an explanation of how such system will standardize payments.''.

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