

H.R. 3155, as amended

Caregiver Assistance and Resource Enhancement Act

Title: To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide certain caregivers of veterans with training, support, and medical care, and for other purposes.

Mr. Michaud of Maine introduced H.R. 3155 on July 9, 2009.

H.R. 3155, as amended, would:

1. Create a new caregiver program to help family and non-family members who provide care for disabled, ill, or injured veterans enrolled in the VA health care system. In addition, the VA shall train existing case managers of veterans to also provide information about support services and benefits available to caregivers of such veterans.
2. Provide support services to family and non-family caregivers of veterans, including educational sessions on how to be a better caregiver; one-stop access resource directory of support services via a dedicated caregiver support Internet website; and, information and outreach.
3. Make counseling and mental health services available to family and non-family caregivers of veterans.
4. Require VA to ensure that respite care meets the needs of the veteran receiving care, including 24-hour in-home respite care and that such care is appropriate with respect to the age of the veteran receiving it.
5. Provide monthly financial stipend, through October 1, 2012, to primary family caregivers to certain eligible veterans. Caregivers who are employed by a home health care agency to provide care for the family member veteran or otherwise receiving payment for such services are not eligible for the stipend.
6. Expand CHAMPVA (Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs), through October 1, 2012, to primary family caregivers who provide caregiver services to certain eligible veterans and are without health insurance or are not eligible for other public health insurance options.
7. Provide lodging and subsistence to attendants who accompany certain eligible veterans traveling for health care evaluation and treatments at VA facilities.
8. Define certain eligible veterans for the financial stipend, CHAMPVA, and the lodging and subsistence benefits under this Act as those who were deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom, and determined by the Secretary to have a severe service-connected injury or illness, unable to carry out activities of daily living (including instrumental activities), and in need of caregiver services such that without them the veteran would require hospitalization, nursing home care, or other residential institutional care.
9. Require the VA to design and conduct a survey on caregivers within the VA system no later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of the Act and at least once every three-year period thereafter.

Effective Date: Date of enactment.

Legislative History:

- July 9, 2009: Ordered reported by the Subcommittee on Health.
- July 15, 2009: Ordered reported, as amended, by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
- July 23, 2009: Reported, H. Rept. 111-224.
- July 27, 2009: Passed the House under suspension by voice vote