

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3346

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop a plan for allocation of health care resources by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 25, 1996

Mrs. THURMAN (for herself, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. BILLIRAKIS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MICA, Mr. CANADY of Florida, and Mr. WELDON of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop a plan for allocation of health care resources by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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. PLAN FOR ALLOCATION OF HEALTH CARE RE-**
4 **SOURCES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETER-**
5 **ANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) PLAN.—(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
7 shall develop a plan for the allocation of health care re-
8 sources (including personnel and funds) of the Depart-
9 ment of Veterans Affairs among the health care facilities

1 of the Department so as to ensure that veterans having
2 similar economic status, similar eligibility priority, or simi-
3 lar medical conditions and who are eligible for medical
4 care in those facilities have similar access to care in those
5 facilities, regardless of the region of the United States in
6 which they reside.

7 (2) The plan shall reflect, to the maximum extent
8 possible, the Veterans Integrated Service Network, as well
9 as the Resource Planning and Management System devel-
10 oped by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to account for
11 forecasts in expected workload and to ensure fairness to
12 facilities that provide cost-efficient health care. The plan
13 shall include procedures to identify reasons for variations
14 in operating costs among similar facilities and ways to im-
15 prove the allocation of resources among facilities so as to
16 promote efficient use of resources and provision of quality
17 health care.

18 (3) The Secretary shall prepare the plan in consulta-
19 tion with the Under Secretary for Health of the Depart-
20 ment of Veterans Affairs.

21 (b) PLAN ELEMENTS.—The plan under subsection
22 (a) shall set forth—

23 (1) milestones for achieving the goal referred to
24 in that subsection; and

1 (2) a means of evaluating the success of the
2 Secretary in meeting that goal through the plan.

3 (c) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall
4 submit the plan developed under subsection (a) to Con-
5 gress not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
6 ment of this Act.

7 (d) PLAN IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall
8 implement the plan developed under subsection (a) within
9 60 days of submitting it to Congress under subsection (b),
10 unless within such period the Secretary notifies the appro-
11 priate committees of Congress that the plan will not be
12 implemented, along with an explanation of why the plan
13 will not be implemented.

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