

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3560

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize pre-enrollment of certain combat service members of the Armed Forces in the system of annual patient enrollment of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 9, 2024

Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. MANCHIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize pre-enrollment of certain combat service members of the Armed Forces in the system of annual patient enrollment of 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Combat Veterans Pre-
5 Enrollment Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. PRE-ENROLLMENT OF CERTAIN COMBAT SERVICE**
2 **MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN THE**
3 **PATIENT ENROLLMENT SYSTEM OF THE DE-**
4 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1705 of title 38, United
6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing new subsection:

8 “(e)(1) The Secretary may pre-enroll in the system
9 of annual patient enrollment established and operated
10 under subsection (a) a member of the Armed Forces dur-
11 ing the 180-day period before the separation of such mem-
12 ber from service in the Armed Forces if the Secretary de-
13 termines such member would be eligible for enrollment
14 under such subsection and would be described in section
15 1710(e)(1)(D) of this title upon separating from such
16 service.

17 “(2) In this subsection, the term ‘pre-enroll’ means,
18 with respect to a member of the Armed Forces, all activi-
19 ties necessary to permit a final enrollment determination
20 with respect to the enrollment of such member in the sys-
21 tem of annual patient enrollment established and operated
22 under subsection (a) immediately upon the separation of
23 such member from the Armed Forces.”.

24 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PRE-ENROLLMENT MECHA-
25 NISM.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
3 retary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of De-
4 fense shall establish a mechanism to permit pre-en-
5 rollment of members of the Armed Forces in the
6 system of annual patient enrollment of the Depart-
7 ment of Veterans Affairs pursuant to section
8 1705(e) of title 38, United States Code, as added by
9 subsection (a).

10 (2) BRIEFINGS ON INITIAL IMPLEMENTA-
11 TION.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than each of
13 180 days, one year, and two years after the
14 date of the enactment of this Act, the Depart-
15 ment of Veterans Affairs-Department of De-
16 fense Joint Executive Committee established
17 under section 320 of title 38, United States
18 Code, shall provide to the appropriate commit-
19 tees of Congress a briefing on the implementa-
20 tion of the mechanism required under para-
21 graph (1).

22 (B) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
23 GRESS DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term
24 “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

1 (i) the Committee on Veterans' Af-
2 fairs and the Committee on Armed Serv-
3 ices of the Senate; and

4 (ii) the Committee on Veterans' Af-
5 fairs and the Committee on Armed Serv-
6 ices of the House of Representatives.

7 (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 8111(f)(2) of title 38,
8 United States Code, is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) and
10 (F) as subparagraphs (F) and (G), respectively; and

11 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the fol-
12 lowing new subparagraph (E):

13 “(E) With respect to the pre-enrollment of
14 members of the Armed Forces in the system of an-
15 nual patient enrollment of the Department under
16 section 1705(e) of this title during the preceding fis-
17 cal year, the following:

18 “(i) The number of such members who
19 pre-enrolled in such system.

20 “(ii) The number of such members who ap-
21 plied for pre-enrollment but were denied final
22 enrollment in such system.

23 “(iii) Aggregated demographic information
24 for such members, including age, ethnicity,

1 length of service, military rank, and branch of
2 service.”.

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