

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure fair reimbursement rates for home and community-based services furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. HEINRICH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure fair reimbursement rates for home and community-based services furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

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 “Protecting Home-
5 Based Care for Rural Veterans Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR HOME AND COMMU-**
2 **NITY-BASED SERVICES.**

3 (a) **HOMEMAKER AND HOME HEALTH AIDE PRO-**
4 **GRAM.**—Section 1720L(c) of title 38, United States Code,
5 is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(3) On and after the date of the enactment of the
7 Protecting Home-Based Care for Rural Veterans Act of
8 2026, the Secretary—

9 “(A) in the case of any reimbursement rates for
10 services furnished under the Homemaker and Home
11 Health Aide program that were reduced after De-
12 cember 31, 2025, shall reinstate the rates in effect
13 on such date; and

14 “(B) may not reduce the reimbursement rates
15 for such services to an amount that is less than the
16 rates in effect on such date, unless the Secretary no-
17 tifies Congress of such reduction not later than 90
18 days before such reduction takes effect.

19 “(4) Not later than 180 days after the date of the
20 enactment of the Protecting Home-Based Care for Rural
21 Veterans Act of 2026, and annually thereafter, the Sec-
22 retary shall submit to Congress a report—

23 “(A) specifying whether the number of pro-
24 viders furnishing services under the Homemaker and
25 Home Health Aide program is adequate to meet vet-
26 eran demand for such services;

1 “(B) identifying any regions where provider
2 participation in furnishing such services is inad-
3 equate to meet such demand; and

4 “(C) identifying how the Secretary plans to en-
5 sure adequate provider participation in furnishing
6 such services to ensure the needs of veterans for
7 such care are met.”.

8 (b) REPORT ON REIMBURSEMENT RATES.—Not later
9 than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
10 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress
11 a report that includes—

12 (1) the data sources used to establish reim-
13 bursement rates for services under subsections (c)
14 and (e) of section 1720L of title 38, United States
15 Code, including any use of data from the Medicare
16 program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act
17 (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.), the Medicaid program
18 under title XIX of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et
19 seq.), or the private market;

20 (2) the weighting and adjustment factors ap-
21 plied to such data;

22 (3) the role of any contractors or third-party
23 administrators in determining such rates;

24 (4) a description of any consultation with pro-
25 viders of home and community-based services in es-

1 tablishing such rates, including how such input was
2 solicited, considered, and incorporated; and
3 (5) a description of any formulas, models, or
4 analytical methods used to establish such rates, in-
5 cluding any variables, assumptions, weighting, and
6 any additional data sources or factors considered by
7 the Secretary.