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(Original Signature of Member)

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program under which eligible veterans may elect to receive hospital care and medical services at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LOBIONDO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program under which eligible veterans may elect to receive hospital care and medical services at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities, 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. PILOT PROGRAM ON DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
4 **ERANS AFFAIRS FEE-BASIS HEALTH CARE.**

5 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—Beginning not later than one
6 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-

1 retary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a two-year pilot
2 program under which—
3 (1) eligible veterans may elect to receive hos-
4 pital care and medical services at non-Department of
5 Veterans Affairs facilities; and
6 (2) the Secretary shall reimburse such facilities
7 for the cost of such care and services.
8 (b) ELIGIBLE VETERAN.—For purposes of the pilot
9 program under this section, an eligible veteran is a veteran
10 who—
11 (1) is enrolled in the patient enrollment system
12 of the Department of Veterans Affairs under section
13 1705 of title 38, United States Code; and
14 (2) resides in a geographic area selected by the
15 Secretary under subsection (c).
16 (c) SELECTION OF GEOGRAPHIC AREAS.—The Sec-
17 retary shall select one geographic area within each Vet-
18 erans Integrated Service Network for participation in the
19 pilot program. For Veterans Integrated Service Network
20 4, the Secretary shall select NJ-2 as the geographic area
21 for participation in the pilot program.
22 (d) IDENTIFICATION CARD.—Under the pilot pro-
23 gram, the Secretary shall issue to each eligible veteran
24 who elects to receive hospital care and medical services
25 at non-Department facilities a unique identification card.

1 The Secretary shall take such steps as may be necessary
2 to ensure that such veterans receive such care and services
3 at such non-Department facilities upon presentation of the
4 identification card.

5 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the con-
6 clusion of the pilot program under this section, the Sec-
7 retary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs
8 of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on
9 the pilot program. Such report shall include the Sec-
10 retary's analysis of the success of the pilot program and
11 any recommendations for extending or expanding the pilot
12 program.