



## VA MISSION Act

### *Extension of the VA Choice Program*

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**May 27, 2018**

On Wednesday, May 23, 2018, the Senate passed S.2372, the John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks (MISSION) Act. Since the bill passed the House the week prior, the bill now heads to the President for his signature. The MISSION Act would expand veterans' access to health care services, consolidate the Veterans Choice Program with other community care programs that provide medical care to veterans outside of the VA system, and authorize \$5.2 billion in funding to keep it running through fiscal year 2019. The President is expected to sign the bill shortly.

Click [here](#) for the bill, [here](#) for the section-by-section summary of the bill, and [here](#) for a short summary for the bill.

#### ***The MISSION Act would, among other things –***

- Broaden veterans' access to health care services;
- Consolidate the Veterans Choice Program with other community care programs that provide medical care to veterans outside of the VA system;
- Authorize \$5.2 billion in funding to keep it running through fiscal year 2019;
- Create a prompt payment process that requires VA to process payment within 30 calendar days of receipt of a clean electronic claim or within 45 calendar days of receipt of a clean paper claim;
- Establishes a new commission to review VA medical facility realignment and provisions seeking to help recruit and retain health care professionals;
- Establishes mobile deployment teams for underserved and rural facilities to provide specialized and routine health care;
- Allows VA to provide transplant procedures on a live donor; and
- Expands eligibility for VA's Caregiver Program to veterans of all generations

***If you have any questions, please contact our policy lead, Devon Seibert-Bailey, at 202-266-2600.***