
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 247 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY MIHALEK, RYAN, READSHAW, MALONEY, HEFFLEY, BARRAR,
O'MARA, BERNSTINE, KAUFFMAN, MILLARD, DIAMOND, F. KELLER,
METCALFE, DEASY, HELM AND MOUL, APRIL 25, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, APRIL 25, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the Congress of the United States to facilitate
2 and ensure implementation of the VA Maintaining Internal
3 Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of
4 2018 by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

5 WHEREAS, The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of
6 Pennsylvania is committed to giving coordinated and specialized
7 physical and mental health services to veterans in all regions
8 of our Commonwealth; and

9 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans
10 Affairs (DMVA) has reported a veteran population in the
11 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania of nearly 800,000, the fourth
12 largest veteran population in the nation; and

13 WHEREAS, The United States Census Bureau has indicated a
14 projected population of 803,420 Pennsylvania residents who have
15 served in the United States Armed Forces; and

16 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs
17 (VA), in its duties to provide for the health and well-being of
18 Pennsylvania veterans, is failing in the timely delivery of the

1 quality of care these veterans deserve; and

2 WHEREAS, On June 6, 2018, the President of the United States
3 signed S. 2372 (115th Congress), the John S. McCain III, Daniel
4 K. Akaka, and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems
5 and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018 (the
6 VA MISSION Act of 2018) (Public Law 115-182, 132 Stat. 1393); and

7 WHEREAS, More than 30 military and veterans service
8 organizations across our nation expressed support for this
9 legislation; and

10 WHEREAS, The act reforms the VA medical care system through a
11 new and consolidated Veterans Community Care Program; and

12 WHEREAS, To better serve Pennsylvania's veterans, the act
13 authorizes the VA to enter into community provider agreements
14 relating to DMVA facilities such as the Delaware Valley
15 Veterans' Home, Gino J. Merli Veterans' Home, Pennsylvania
16 Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, Southeastern Veterans' Center and
17 Southwestern Veterans' Center; and

18 WHEREAS, The act further authorizes family caregiver services
19 for all veterans who incurred a serious injury or aggravated a
20 serious injury while on active duty; and

21 WHEREAS, Family caregiver services previously extended only
22 to veterans with serious injuries incurred on or after September
23 11, 2001; and

24 WHEREAS, As part of an information-sharing process
25 established under the act, community care providers would
26 conduct safe opioid prescribing practices at veterans
27 facilities; and

28 WHEREAS, Establishment of an integrated system requires
29 access to the highest quality of health care within the VA
30 system and in our communities; and

1 WHEREAS, Establishment of an integrated system requires
2 timely action and systemic review; and

3 WHEREAS, Establishment of an integrated system requires
4 publication of appropriate standards, access to walk-in care and
5 innovations in delivery of services and processing of claims;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of
8 Pennsylvania expresses its support for the letter and spirit of
9 the act; therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
11 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the Congress of the
12 United States to facilitate and ensure implementation of the VA
13 Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated
14 Outside Networks Act of 2018 by the United States Department of
15 Veterans Affairs; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
17 the President of the United States, the presiding officers of
18 each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from
19 Pennsylvania.