
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 140 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY DiSANTO, BROWNE, FOLMER, MARTIN AND PHILLIPS-HILL,
MAY 31, 2019

REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,
MAY 31, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to ensure the United
2 States Department of Veterans Affairs sufficiently implements
3 the letter and spirit of the VA Maintaining Internal Systems
4 and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks (MISSION) Act
5 of 2018 and provide veterans in this Commonwealth with the
6 care they have earned for their military service.

7 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has a population of approximately
8 800,000 veterans; and

9 WHEREAS, The health and well-being of this Commonwealth's
10 veterans is of the utmost concern of the Senate of the
11 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

12 WHEREAS, On June 6, 2018, the bipartisan VA MISSION Act of
13 2018 (Public Law 115-182, 132 Stat. 1393) was signed into law
14 and supported by more than 30 veteran and military service
15 organizations; and

16 WHEREAS, The successful implementation of the VA MISSION Act
17 of 2018 includes all of the following requirements:

18 (1) Consolidating the United States Department of
19 Veterans Affairs (VA) seven community care programs into a

1 new Veterans Community Care Program and creating clear
2 eligibility standards for a veteran to access community care
3 if the VA does not offer the health care or services the
4 veteran needs.

5 (2) Creating seamless access to local urgent care
6 facilities.

7 (3) Innovating health care delivery and increasing
8 timely claims processing systems to reimburse community
9 providers.

10 (4) Strengthening the VA's workforce by allowing the VA
11 to recruit and retain the best medical providers.

12 (5) Removing barriers for VA healthcare professionals to
13 practice telemedicine.

14 (6) Expanding eligibility for the VA Family Caregiver
15 Program to veterans from all eras of service who were
16 seriously injured while serving in the military, rather than
17 only those veterans who have served since September 11, 2001.

18 (7) Allowing the VA to partner with the six veterans'
19 homes operated by the Commonwealth by entering into provider
20 agreements that are not subject to Federal contracting
21 regulations.

22 (8) Strengthening the VA's ability to manage its real
23 property portfolio and build a high-performing, integrated
24 health care system;

25 and

26 WHEREAS, Our nation's veterans have made enormous sacrifices
27 to guarantee our freedoms; and

28 WHEREAS, Although our nation can never fully repay its debt
29 of gratitude to our veterans, it can and should ensure timely
30 access to the highest quality of healthcare for our veterans;

1 therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
3 urge the Congress of the United States to ensure the United
4 States Department of Veterans Affairs sufficiently implements
5 the letter and spirit of the VA Maintaining Internal Systems and
6 Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks (MISSION) Act of 2018
7 and provide veterans in this Commonwealth with the care they
8 have earned for their military service; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
10 the President of the United States and to each member of
11 Congress from Pennsylvania.