

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6303

To amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the administration of the TRICARE program in Puerto Rico, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 16, 2021

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN (for herself and Mrs. MURPHY of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the administration of the TRICARE program in Puerto Rico, 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 “TRICARE Equality
5 Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO ADMINISTRATION**
7 **OF TRICARE PROGRAM IN PUERTO RICO.**

8 (a) IMPROVEMENTS.—Chapter 55 of title 10, United
9 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1076f

1 the following new section (and conforming the table of sec-
2 tions at the beginning of such chapter accordingly):

3 **“§ 1076g. TRICARE program: administration in Puer-**
4 **to Rico**

5 “(a) AVAILABILITY OF TRICARE PRIME.—In desig-
6 nating geographical areas under section 1097(b)(3) of this
7 title, the Secretary of Defense shall designate such areas
8 in Puerto Rico in a similar manner used to designate such
9 areas in the 50 States.

10 “(b) EXPANSION OF TRAVEL BENEFITS.—(1) In pro-
11 viding travel and transportation allowances under section
12 1074i of this title, the Secretary of Defense shall ensure
13 that individuals located in Puerto Rico who, but for such
14 location, would be eligible to receive such allowances pur-
15 suant to such section are eligible to receive such allow-
16 ances.

17 “(2) The Secretary may revise the regulations pre-
18 scribed under section 464 of title 37, or prescribe such
19 new regulations, as may be necessary for the administra-
20 tion of paragraph (1).

21 “(c) HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE.—The Di-
22 rector of the Federal Electronic Health Record Moderniza-
23 tion Office shall coordinate with the Director of the De-
24 partment of Health of Puerto Rico for the purpose of

1 sharing health information through the Joint Health In-
2 formation Exchange, or such successor initiative.

3 “(d) FEDERAL ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD MOD-
4 ERNIZATION OFFICE.—In this section, the term ‘Federal
5 Electronic Health Record Modernization Office’ means the
6 Office established under section 1635(b) of the Wounded
7 Warrior Act (title XVI of Public Law 110–181; 10 U.S.C.
8 1071 note).”.

9 (b) SUNSET.—Section 1076g of title 10, United
10 States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall be repealed
11 on the date that is two years after the date on which Puer-
12 to Rico is declared to be a State of the United States of
13 America and is admitted to the Union on equal footing
14 with the other States in all respects.

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