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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts and agreements for the placement of veterans in non-Department medical foster homes for certain veterans who are unable to live independently.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts and agreements for the placement of veterans in non-Department medical foster homes for certain veterans who are unable to live independently.

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 “Long-Term Care Vet-
5 erans Choice Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CONTRACT AU-**
2 **THORITY FOR PLACEMENT OF VETERANS IN**
3 **NON-DEPARTMENT MEDICAL FOSTER HOMES.**

4 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—Section 1720 of title 38, United
5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing new subsection:

7 “(h)(1) During the three-year period beginning on
8 October 1, 2019, and subject to paragraph (2), at the re-
9 quest of a veteran for whom the Secretary is required to
10 provide nursing home care under section 1710A of this
11 title, the Secretary may place the veteran in a medical fos-
12 ter home that meets Department standards, at the ex-
13 pense of the United States, pursuant to a contract or
14 agreement entered into between the Secretary and the
15 medical foster home for such purpose. A veteran who is
16 placed in a medical foster home under this subsection shall
17 agree, as a condition of such placement, to accept home
18 health services furnished by the Secretary under section
19 1717 of this title.

20 “(2) Not more than 900 veterans placed in a medical
21 foster home, whether placed before or after the date of
22 the enactment of this subsection, may have their care cov-
23 ered at the expense of the United States under subsection
24 (a).

25 “(3) In this subsection, the term ‘medical foster
26 home’ means a home designed to provide non-institutional,

1 long-term, supportive care for veterans who are unable to
2 live independently and prefer a family setting.”.

3 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (h) of title 38,
4 United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take
5 effect on October 1, 2019.