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(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To provide for coordination between the TRICARE program and eligibility for making contributions to a health savings account, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. STEWART (for himself and Ms. GABBARD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide for coordination between the TRICARE program and eligibility for making contributions to a health savings account, 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 “Veterans TRICARE
5 Choice Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COORDINATION BETWEEN TRICARE PROGRAM AND**
2 **ELIGIBILITY TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS TO**
3 **HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 223(c)(1)(B) of the Inter-
5 nal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “and”
6 at the end of clause (ii), by striking the period at the end
7 of clause (iii) and inserting “, and”, and by adding at the
8 end the following new clause:

9 “(iv) coverage under the TRICARE
10 program under chapter 55 of title 10,
11 United States Code, for any period with
12 respect to which an election is in effect
13 under section 1097d of such title providing
14 that the individual is ineligible to be en-
15 rolled in (and receive benefits under) such
16 program.”.

17 (b) PROVISIONS RELATING TO ELECTION OF INELI-
18 GIBILITY UNDER TRICARE.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 55 of title 10,
20 United States Code, is amended by inserting after
21 section 1097c the following new section:

22 **“§ 1097d. TRICARE program: Election of eligibility**

23 “(a) ELECTION.—A TRICARE-eligible individual
24 may elect at any time to be ineligible to enroll in (and
25 receive any benefits under) the TRICARE program.

1 “(b) CHANGE OF ELECTION.—(1) If a TRICARE-eli-
2 gible individual makes an election under subsection (a),
3 the TRICARE-eligible individual may later elect to be eli-
4 gible to enroll in the TRICARE program. An election
5 made under this subsection may be made only during a
6 special enrollment period.

7 “(2) The Secretary shall ensure that a TRICARE-
8 eligible individual who makes an election under subsection
9 (a) may efficiently enroll in the TRICARE program pur-
10 suant to an election under paragraph (1), including by
11 maintaining the individual, as appropriate, in the health
12 care enrollment system under section 1099 of this title in
13 an inactive manner.

14 “(c) PERIOD OF ELECTION.—If a TRICARE-eligible
15 individual makes an election under subsection (a), such
16 election shall be in effect beginning on the date of such
17 election and ending on the date that such individual makes
18 an election under subsection (b)(1) to enroll in the
19 TRICARE program.

20 “(d) HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT PARTICIPATION.—
21 (1) For provisions allowing participation in a health sav-
22 ings account in connection with coverage under a high de-
23 ductible health plan during the period that the election
24 under subsection (a) is in effect, see section
25 223(c)(1)(B)(iv) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

1 “(2) The Secretary shall submit to the Commissioner
2 of Internal Revenue the name of, and any other informa-
3 tion that the Commissioner may require with respect to,
4 each TRICARE-eligible individual who makes an election
5 under subsection (a) or (b), not later than 90 days after
6 such election, for purposes of determining the eligibility
7 of such TRICARE-eligible individual for a health savings
8 account described in paragraph (1).

9 “(e) RECORDS.—The Secretary shall ensure that a
10 TRICARE-eligible individual who makes an election under
11 subsection (a) is maintained on the Defense Enrollment
12 Eligibility Reporting System, or successor system, regard-
13 less of whether the individual is eligible for the TRICARE
14 program during the period of such election.

15 “(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after
16 the end of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to
17 the congressional defense committees a report on elections
18 by TRICARE-eligible individuals under this section that
19 includes the following:

20 “(1) The number of TRICARE-eligible individ-
21 uals, as of the date of the submittal of the report,
22 who are ineligible to enroll in (and receive any bene-
23 fits under) the TRICARE program pursuant to an
24 election under subsection (a).

1 “(2) The number of TRICARE-eligible individ-
2 uals who made an election described under sub-
3 section (a) but, as of the date of the submittal of the
4 report, are enrolled in the TRICARE program pur-
5 suant to a change of election under subsection (b).

6 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) The term ‘TRICARE-eligible individual’
8 means an individual who is eligible to be a covered
9 beneficiary entitled to health care benefits under the
10 TRICARE program (determined without regard to
11 this section).

12 “(2) The term ‘special enrollment period’ means
13 the period in which a beneficiary under the Federal
14 Employees Health Benefits program under chapter
15 89 of title 5 may enroll in or change a plan under
16 such program by reason of a qualifying event or dur-
17 ing an open enrollment season. For purposes of this
18 section, such qualifying events shall also include
19 events determined appropriate by the Secretary of
20 Defense, including events relating to a member of
21 the armed forces being ordered to active duty.”.

22 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of
23 sections at the beginning of chapter 55 of such title
24 is amended by inserting after the item relating to
25 section 1097c the following new item:

“1097d. TRICARE program: Election of eligibility.”.