

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019**

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HOUSE RESOLUTION 550

Sponsors: Representatives Grange, Potts, and Szoka (Primary Sponsors).

For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Homeland Security, Military, and Veterans Affairs, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 3, 2019

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO ENSURE FULL IMPLEMENTATION
2 OF THE VA MISSION ACT OF 2018.

3 Whereas, the VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside
4 Networks (MISSION) Act of 2018 passed with large bipartisan support and was signed into law
5 on June 6, 2018; and

6 Whereas, the VA MISSION Act requires an overhaul and modernization of the VA
7 health care system, and when properly implemented, will preserve the beneficial aspects of the
8 VA health care system while providing veterans increased health care options; and

9 Whereas, some of the highlights of the VA MISSION Act include:

- 10 (1) Consolidating VA's seven community care programs, making community care
11 work better for veterans, community health care providers, and VA staff. This
12 provision will also update the payment processes within the VA to ensure
13 more timely payment of community providers, increase certainty for veterans
14 by authorizing a permanent community care program to replace the current
15 temporary and flawed VA Choice program, and clear eligibility standards to
16 access community care, if the VA does not offer the care or services the
17 veteran needs.
- 18 (2) Expanding eligibility for the VA Family Caregiver Program to veterans from
19 all eras of service seriously injured while serving in the military, rather than
20 only those serving since September 11, 2001.
- 21 (3) Strengthening the VA's workforce by allowing the VA to recruit and retain
22 the best medical providers. This provision will allow the removal of barriers
23 for VA health care professionals to practice telemedicine and such
24 possibilities as the establishment of mobile deployment teams for underserved
25 and rural facilities to provide specialized and routine health care. This
26 provision will also allow the VA to partner with State veterans homes,
27 including the four operated by the State of North Carolina that serve over 400
28 North Carolina veterans, by entering into provider agreements that are not
29 subject to federal contracting regulations.
- 30 (4) Strengthening the VA's ability to manage its real property portfolio and build
31 a high-performing, integrated health care system; and

32 Whereas, the Department of Veterans Affairs has until June 6, 2019, to implement
33 major components of the law, including the new veterans community care program in a manner
34 consistent with the letter and spirit in which the VA MISSION Act was written; and



1 Whereas, as "The Veteran-Friendly State," North Carolina is home to more than
2 778,000 veterans, who deserve to be supported in all aspects of their lives; Now, therefore,
3 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

4 **SECTION 1.** The North Carolina House of Representatives urges Congress to ensure
5 full implementation of the VA MISSION Act of 2018 so that the veterans in this country can
6 have access to excellent health care.

7 **SECTION 2.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit a copy of this resolution in any
8 format deemed appropriate to the members of North Carolina's congressional delegation.

9 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.