

# HOUSE BILL No. 5958

April 8, 2008, Introduced by Rep. LeBlanc and referred to the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security.

A bill to establish a health care insurance program for veterans; to provide for qualifications and limitations of this program; and to provide for certain powers and duties of certain state agencies.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the  
2 "veterans health care act".

3           Sec. 2. As used in this act:

4           (a) "Department" means the department of military and veterans  
5 affairs.

6           (b) "Veteran" means that term as defined in section 2(b) of  
7 the veterans military pay act, 1947 PA 12, MCL 35.922.

8           (c) "VHA" means the federal veterans health administration.

1           Sec. 3. The veterans health care insurance program is  
2 established in the department. The department shall administer the  
3 program. In administering the program, the department may consult  
4 with and obtain the assistance of other departments, including, but  
5 not limited to, the department of community health.

6           Sec. 4. A veteran who meets the qualifications enumerated in  
7 section 5 shall be eligible for health insurance coverage under  
8 this act. The cost of the coverage to the veteran shall be \$40.00  
9 per month, plus applicable co-pays, payable as directed by the  
10 department.

11           Sec. 5. A veteran is qualified for health insurance coverage  
12 under this act if he or she meets all of the following criteria:

13           (a) The veteran is between the ages of 19 and 64.

14           (b) The veteran has not been covered under a policy of health  
15 insurance for at least 180 days before the veteran applies for  
16 coverage under this act.

17           (c) The veteran is ineligible for coverage under the VHA or  
18 the medical assistance program administered under the social  
19 welfare act, 1939 PA 280, MCL 400.31 to 400.119b.

20           (d) The veteran was not dishonorably discharged from service.

21           (e) The veteran's income is not greater than 150% of the  
22 federal poverty guidelines published annually in the federal  
23 register by the United States department of health and human  
24 services under its authority to revise the poverty line under 42  
25 USC 9902.

26           (f) The veteran applies for coverage on a form approved by the  
27 department.

1           Sec. 6. The department shall implement the health care  
2 insurance program no later than 180 days after the effective date  
3 of this act.