

SEPTEMBER 22, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H.R. 10394 -- Federal Payments to State Veterans' Homes. This bill provides for increases in Federal per diem payments by the Veterans Administration to State veterans' homes, and expands eligibility for certain types of care in State homes.

Current law authorizes the Veterans Administration (VA) to make per diem payments to State veterans' homes for the purpose of assisting and encouraging States to provide care and treatment for veterans. H.R. 10394 will increase the existing rates to \$11.50 per day for hospital care, \$10.50 per day for nursing home care, and \$5.50 per day for domiciliary care, retroactive to January 1, 1976. In addition, the bill will remove the limitation in current law that per diem payments may be made only for wartime -- as opposed to peacetime -- veterans in State nursing homes and hospitals. The wartime service limitation will still apply for veterans in State domiciliaries.

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