SEC. 715. PROVISION OF WRITTEN NOTICE OF CHANGE TO TRICARE BENEFITS.

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

“§ 1097d. TRICARE program: notice of change to benefits

“(a) Provision of Notice.—(1) If the Secretary makes a significant change to any benefits provided by the TRICARE program to covered beneficiaries, the Secretary shall provide individuals described in paragraph (2) with written notice explaining such changes.

“(2) The individuals described by this paragraph are covered beneficiaries and providers participating in the TRICARE program who may be affected by a significant change covered by a notification under paragraph (1).

“(3) The Secretary shall provide notice under paragraph (1) through electronic means.
“(b) TIMING OF NOTICE.—The Secretary shall pro-
vide notice under paragraph (1) of subsection (a) by the
earlier of the following dates:

“(1) The date that the Secretary determines
would afford individuals described in paragraph (2)
of such subsection adequate time to understand the
change covered by the notification.

“(2) The date that is 90 days before the date
on which the change covered by the notification be-
comes effective.

“(3) The effective date of a significant change
that is required by law.

“(c) SIGNIFICANT CHANGE DEFINED.—In this sec-
tion, the term ‘significant change’ means a system-wide
change—

“(1) in policy regarding services provided under
the TRICARE program (not including the addition
of new services or benefits); or

“(2) in payment rates of more than 20 per-
cent.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
after the item relating to section 1097c the following new item:

“1097d. TRICARE program: notice of change to benefits.”.