

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1131

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and implement a plan to hire directors of the medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 16, 2017

Mr. BOST (for himself, Mr. COSTA, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. SHUSTER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mrs. HARTZLER, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. BERGMAN, Ms. GABBARD, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. LOWENTHAL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and implement a plan to hire directors of the medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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 “VA Health Center
5 Management Stability and Improvement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) According to data from the Department of
2 Veterans Affairs, several medical centers of the De-
3 partment are managed by acting or temporary direc-
4 tors.

5 (2) Some of these medical centers have not
6 been managed by a permanent director for a long
7 period.

8 (3) Pursuant to section 317.903 of title 5, Code
9 of Federal Regulations, a member of the senior exec-
10 utive service who is detailed to a temporary position
11 in a department or agency of the Federal Govern-
12 ment may not serve in that position for periods
13 longer than 120-day increments, and no member of
14 the senior executive service may be detailed to an
15 unclassified position for a period longer than 240
16 days.

17 (4) The inability of the Department of Veterans
18 Affairs to recruit qualified, permanent candidates as
19 directors of medical centers, combined with the poli-
20 cies described in paragraph (3), leads to frequent
21 turnover of directors at the medical centers which
22 impedes the ability of system management to engage
23 in long-term planning and other functions necessary
24 to improve service delivery to veterans.

1 (5) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs should
2 develop a comprehensive plan to recruit permanent
3 directors at each medical center that lacks a perma-
4 nent director.

5 **SEC. 3. PLAN TO HIRE DIRECTORS OF MEDICAL CENTERS**
6 **OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

7 (a) PLAN.—Not later than 120 days after the date
8 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans
9 Affairs shall develop and implement a plan to hire highly
10 qualified directors for each medical center of the Depart-
11 ment of Veterans Affairs that lacks a permanent director
12 as of the date of the plan. The Secretary shall prioritize
13 the hiring of such directors for the medical centers that
14 have not had a permanent director for the longest periods.

15 (b) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The plan developed under
16 subsection (a) shall include the following:

17 (1) A deadline to hire the directors of the med-
18 ical centers of the Department as described in such
19 subsection.

20 (2) Identification of the possible impediments to
21 such hiring.

22 (3) Identification of opportunities to promote
23 and train candidates from within the Department to
24 senior executive positions in the Department, includ-
25 ing as directors of medical centers.

1 (c) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 120 days after the
2 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall sub-
3 mit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House
4 of Representatives and the Senate the plan developed
5 under subsection (a).

6 (d) SEMIANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 180
7 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and each
8 180-day period thereafter until January 1, 2018, the Sec-
9 retary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs
10 of the House of Representatives and the Senate a list of
11 each medical center of the Department that lacks a per-
12 manent director as of the date of the report.

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