

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3016

To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of podiatrists  
in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2015

Mr. WENSTRUP (for himself, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. RUIZ, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role  
of podiatrists in 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 Provider Equity  
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ROLE OF PODIATRISTS IN DEPARTMENT OF VET-**  
7 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

8 (a) INCLUSION AS PHYSICIAN.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 74  
2           of title 38, United States Code, is amended by add-  
3           ing at the end the following new section:

4   **“§ 7413. Treatment of podiatrists**

5           “For purposes of this chapter, the term ‘physician’  
6           includes a podiatrist.”.

7           (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
8           tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended  
9           by inserting after the item relating to section 7412  
10          the following new item:

        “7413. Treatment of podiatrists.”.

11          (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
12          7401(1) of such title is amended by striking “Physi-  
13          cians, dentists, podiatrists,” and inserting “Physi-  
14          cians, dentists,”.

15          (b) QUALIFICATIONS.—Section 7402(b) of such title  
16          is amended—

17               (1) in paragraph (1)—

18                       (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or  
19                       of doctor of osteopathy” and inserting “, doctor  
20                       of osteopathy, or doctor of podiatric medicine”;  
21                       and

22                       (B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “po-  
23                       diatry,” after “surgery,”;

24               (2) by striking paragraph (5); and

1           (3) by redesignating paragraphs (6) through  
2           (14) as paragraphs (5) through (13), respectively.

3           (c) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—Section 7403(a)(2)  
4 of such title is amended—

5           (1) by striking subparagraph (C); and

6           (2) by redesignating subparagraphs (D)  
7           through (H) as subparagraphs (C) through (G), re-  
8           spectively.

9           (d) MODIFICATION OF PAY GRADE.—

10           (1) GRADE.—The list in section 7404(b) of  
11           such title is amended by striking “PODIATRIST,”.

12           (2) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by  
13           paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to a pay pe-  
14           riod of the Department of Veterans Affairs begin-  
15           ning on or after the date that is 30 days after the  
16           date of the enactment of this Act.

17           (e) CONTRACTS FOR SCARCE SERVICES.—Section  
18           7409(a) of such title is amended by striking “podia-  
19           trists,”.

20           (f) PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION.—Section 7421(b)  
21 of such title is amended—

22           (1) by striking paragraph (3); and

23           (2) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through  
24           (8) as paragraphs (3) through (7), respectively.

1       (g) MEDICAL DIRECTORS.—Section 7306(a)(4) of  
2 such title is amended by inserting “, doctor of podiatric  
3 medicine,” after “doctor of medicine”.

4       (h) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by this  
5 section shall apply with respect to podiatrists employed by  
6 the Department of Veterans Affairs as of the date of the  
7 enactment of this Act or who are appointed on or after  
8 such date.

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