

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 1058  
OFFERED BY Mr. Wenstrup**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the  
following:

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “VA Provider Equity  
3 Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. ROLE OF PODIATRISTS IN DEPARTMENT OF VET-**  
5 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

6       (a) INCLUSION AS PHYSICIAN.—

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

10 **“§ 7413. Treatment of podiatrists**

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

13           (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
14       tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended  
15       by inserting after the item relating to section 7412  
16       the following new item:

“7413. Treatment of podiatrists.”.

1           (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
2       7401(1) of such title is amended by striking “Physi-  
3       cians, dentists, podiatrists,” and inserting “Physi-  
4       cians, dentists,”.

5       (b) QUALIFICATIONS.—Section 7402(b) of such title  
6 is amended—

7           (1) in paragraph (1)—

8               (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or  
9               of doctor of osteopathy” and inserting “, doctor  
10              of osteopathy, or doctor of podiatric medicine”;  
11              and

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

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

15           (3) by redesignating paragraphs (6) through  
16       (14) as paragraphs (5) through (13), respectively.

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

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

20           (2) by redesignating subparagraphs (D)  
21       through (II) as subparagraphs (C) through (G), re-  
22       spectively.

23       (d) MODIFICATION OF PAY GRADE.—

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

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

6           (e) CONTRACTS FOR SCARCE SERVICES.—Section  
7 7409(a) of such title is amended by striking “podia-  
8 trists,”.

9           (f) PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION.—Section 7421(b)  
10 of such title is amended—

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

12           (2) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through  
13 (8) as paragraphs (3) through (7), respectively.

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

17           (h) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by this  
18 section shall apply with respect to podiatrists employed by  
19 the Department of Veterans Affairs as of the date of the  
20 enactment of this Act or who are appointed on or after  
21 such date.

1 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF REDUCTION IN AMOUNT OF PEN-**  
2 **SION FURNISHED BY DEPARTMENT OF VET-**  
3 **ERANS AFFAIRS FOR CERTAIN VETERANS**  
4 **COVERED BY MEDICAID PLANS FOR SERV-**  
5 **ICES FURNISHED BY NURSING FACILITIES.**

6 Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code,  
7 is amended by striking "September 30, 2024" and insert-  
8 ing "September 30, 2026".

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of podiatrists in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes."

