



(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program under which the Secretary may fill vacant shifts at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs with non-Department health care providers.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BOST introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program under which the Secretary may fill vacant shifts at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs with non-Department health care providers.

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 “Safeguarding VA’s  
5 Healthcare Workforce Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM TO FILL VACANT SHIFTS AT MED-**  
2 **ICAL FACILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF**  
3 **VETERANS AFFAIRS WITH NON-DEPARTMENT**  
4 **HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.**

5 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than one year after  
6 the date of the enactment of this Act, Secretary of Vet-  
7 erans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program under which  
8 the Secretary may fill a vacant shift at a medical facility  
9 of the Department of Veterans Affairs with a non-Depart-  
10 ment health care provider.

11 (b) **AGREEMENTS; PAYMENTS.**—To carry out the  
12 pilot program, the Secretary shall seek to enter into at  
13 least one agreement with an entity that employs or con-  
14 tracts with health care providers. Pursuant to such an  
15 agreement, the Secretary shall pay the entity a fixed rate  
16 for each shift filled by such entity under the pilot program.

17 (c) **LIMITATION.**—The Secretary may not, under the  
18 pilot program, fill a vacant shift at a medical facility of  
19 the Department with a non-Department health care pro-  
20 vider unless the number of vacant shifts at such facility  
21 reaches a minimum number or percentage prescribed by  
22 the Secretary.

23 (d) **LOCATIONS.**—The Secretary shall carry out the  
24 pilot program in medical facilities of not more than two  
25 Veterans Integrated Services Networks. In selecting a fa-

1 cility for the pilot program, the Secretary shall give pref-  
2 erence to a facility—

3 (1) located in a rural area; or

4 (2) that historically has a high rate of vacant  
5 shifts.

6 (e) PRIVACY.—To protect the privacy of a veteran  
7 who receives hospital care or medical services under the  
8 pilot program, the Secretary shall restrict the access; to  
9 medical records of the Department, of a provider who fills  
10 a vacant shift under the pilot program, to only such  
11 records of a veteran to whom such provider provides hos-  
12 pital care or medical services.

13 (f) REPORTS.—

14 (1) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall sub-  
15 mit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the  
16 Senate and House of Representatives a report on the  
17 pilot program not later than—

18 (A) 21 months after the date on which the  
19 Secretary begins to carry out the pilot program;  
20 and

21 (B) 90 days after the date on which the  
22 pilot program terminates.

23 (2) ELEMENTS.—Each such report shall include  
24 the following elements:

1 (A) How frequently the Secretary filled a  
2 vacant shift under the pilot program.

3 (B) The medical specialties relating to va-  
4 cant shifts that were most frequently filled  
5 under the pilot program.

6 (C) The number of veterans who received  
7 hospital care or medical services under the pilot  
8 program.

9 (g) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall termi-  
10 nate three years after the date on which the Secretary be-  
11 gins to carry out the pilot program.