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115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1058

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

FEBRUARY 14, 2017

Mr. WENSTRUP (for himself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. RUIZ) 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.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "VA Provider Equity Act".

**SEC. 2. ROLE OF PODIATRISTS IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) INCLUSION AS PHYSICIAN.—

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

**"§ 7413. Treatment of podiatrists**

''For purposes of this chapter, the term 'physician' includes a podiatrist.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 7412 the following new item:

''7413. Treatment of podiatrists.''.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 7401(1) of such title is amended by striking ''Physicians, dentists, podiatrists,'' and inserting ''Physicians, dentists,''.

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

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''or of doctor of osteopathy'' and inserting '', doctor of osteopathy, or doctor of podiatric medicine''; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting ''podiatry,'' after ''surgery,'';

(2) by striking paragraph (5); and

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

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

(1) by striking subparagraph (C); and

(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) through (H) as subparagraphs (C) through (G), respectively.

(d) MODIFICATION OF PAY GRADE.—

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

(2) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to a pay period of the Department of Veterans Affairs beginning on or after the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) CONTRACTS FOR SCARCE SERVICES.—Section 7409(a) of such title is amended by striking ''podiatrists,''.

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

(1) by striking paragraph (3); and

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

(g) MEDICAL DIRECTORS.—Section 7306(a)(4) of such title is amended by inserting ‘‘, doctor of podiatric medicine,’’ after ‘‘doctor of medicine’’.

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

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