

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To prohibit the downgrading of law enforcement positions in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M. _____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To prohibit the downgrading of law enforcement positions in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

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 Police Recruitment
5 and Retention Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON DOWNGRADING OF LAW EN-**
7 **FORCEMENT POSITIONS IN THE DEPART-**
8 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

9 (a) PROHIBITION.—No official in the Department of
10 Veterans Affairs, the Office of Personnel Management, or

1 any other department or agency may propose, initiate, or
2 carry out a position downgrade for any covered VA posi-
3 tion, and no federal funds may be used to propose, initiate,
4 or carry out a position downgrade for any such position.

5 (b) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.—Any position
6 downgrade for a covered VA position proposed, initiated,
7 or carried out during the period beginning October 1,
8 2025, and ending on the date of the enactment of this
9 Act shall have no force or effect. Any such position sub-
10 jected to a position downgrade during this period shall be
11 returned to the status it had prior to the position down-
12 grade. Any employee occupying such a position shall re-
13 ceive all pay to which they otherwise would have been enti-
14 tled.

15 (c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

16 (1) The term “covered VA position” means a
17 position carrying out law enforcement functions
18 within the Department of Veterans Affairs, whether
19 permanent, temporary, full-time, part-time, or inter-
20 mittent, and without regard to the source of funding
21 for the position.

22 (2) the term “position downgrade” means a
23 consistency review, incumbent-only review, or other
24 classification action taken by the Office of Personnel
25 Management or any other department or agency

1 pursuant to chapter 51 of title 5, United States
2 Code, or similar authority, that may result in a loss
3 of grade or pay associated with a position or set of
4 positions, without regard to whether an employee oc-
5 cupying such a position is entitled to or otherwise
6 provided with retained grade or pay.