

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 902

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to hire psychiatrists.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 7, 2017

Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. HIMES, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SABLAN, and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to hire psychiatrists.

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 “Expedited Hiring for
5 VA Trained Psychiatrists Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. APPOINTMENT OF PSYCHIATRISTS BY VETERANS**
2 **HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 74 of title 38, United
4 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 7406
5 the following new section:

6 **“§ 7406A. Appointment of certain psychiatrists who**
7 **complete residencies**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Subject to subsection (b), the
9 Secretary may appoint, without regard to civil service or
10 classification laws, a psychiatrist who completes a resi-
11 dency under section 7406 of this title to a position under
12 section 7401 or 7405 immediately after such residency,
13 if the psychiatrist meets the qualifications established in
14 regulations prescribed by the Secretary for such position.

15 “(2) The Secretary may begin the process of appoint-
16 ing a psychiatrist under paragraph (1) before the psychia-
17 trist completes a residency.

18 “(b) POSITIONS PERMITTED.—The Secretary may
19 appoint a psychiatrist under subsection (a) if the position
20 to which the psychiatrist is appointed has been unfilled
21 for not less than 35 days as of the date of the appoint-
22 ment.”.

23 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
24 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting

- 1 after the item relating to section 7406 the following new
- 2 item:

“7406A. Appointment of certain psychiatrists who complete residencies.”.

