

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8010

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 2026

Mr. KENNEDY of New York introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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, ini-
4 tiate, or carry out a position downgrade for any such posi-
5 tion.

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

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

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

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

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

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