

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2639

To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the number of graduate medical education residency positions at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 22, 2014

Ms. BALDWIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the number of graduate medical education residency positions at medical facilities of 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 “Veterans Affairs
5 Health Workforce Enhancement Act of 2014”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASE OF GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION**
2 **RESIDENCY POSITIONS AT MEDICAL FACILI-**
3 **TIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
4 **FAIRS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7302 of title 38, United
6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing new subsection:

8 “(e)(1) In carrying out this section, the Secretary
9 shall establish medical residency programs, or ensure a
10 sufficient number of residency positions in medical resi-
11 dency programs, at any medical facility of the Department
12 that the Secretary determines is experiencing a shortage
13 of physicians.

14 “(2) In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary
15 shall—

16 “(A) determine the specialty of health care pro-
17 fessionals with respect to which each medical facility
18 of the Department for which the Secretary has made
19 a determination under paragraph (1) is experiencing
20 a shortage of physicians, including with respect to
21 primary care and mental health;

22 “(B) allocate the residency programs and resi-
23 dency positions under paragraph (1) based on the
24 determination required by subparagraph (A); and

1 “(C) notify Congress of the information used by
2 the Secretary to make the determination required by
3 subparagraph (A).”.

4 (b) FIVE-YEAR INCREASE.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out section
6 7302(e) of title 38, United States Code, as added by
7 subsection (a), during the five-year period beginning
8 on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
9 retary of Veterans Affairs shall increase the number
10 of graduate medical education residency positions at
11 medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Af-
12 fairs by not less than 2,000 positions.

13 (2) PRIORITY.—In increasing the number of
14 graduate medical education residency positions at
15 medical facilities of the Department under para-
16 graph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to med-
17 ical facilities that—

18 (A) as of the date of the enactment of this
19 Act, do not have a medical residency program;
20 and

21 (B) are located in a community in which
22 there is a high need for health care for vet-
23 erans.

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