

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5057

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a continuing education requirement for employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs authorized to prescribe medication.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2016

Mr. KEATING (for himself and Mr. ROTHFUS) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a continuing education requirement for employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs authorized to prescribe medication.

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 “Safe Prescribing for
5 Veterans Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT FOR EM-**
2 **PLOYEES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
3 **FAIRS AUTHORIZED TO PRESCRIBE MEDICA-**
4 **TION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 74 of title
6 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
7 the following new section:

8 **“§ 7413. Continuing education requirement for em-**
9 **ployees authorized to prescribe medica-**
10 **tion**

11 “(a) REQUIREMENT.—(1) Except as provided in
12 paragraph (2), the Secretary shall require each covered
13 employee of the Department to complete not less than one
14 accredited course of continuing education on pain manage-
15 ment once every two years. Such course shall include in-
16 formation on safe prescribing practices and disposal of
17 controlled substances, principles of pain management,
18 identification of potential substance use disorders and ad-
19 diction treatment.

20 “(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a covered em-
21 ployee if the covered employee is licensed or certified by
22 a State licensure or specialty board that requires the com-
23 pletion of continuing education relative to pain manage-
24 ment or substance use disorder management.

25 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 “(1) The term ‘covered employee’ means any
2 employee of the Department authorized to prescribe
3 any controlled substance, including an employee
4 hired under section 7405 of this title.

5 “(2) The term ‘controlled substance’ has the
6 meaning given such term in section 102 of the Con-
7 trolled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802).

8 “(c) APPLICABILITY.—The requirement under sub-
9 section (a) shall apply with respect to a covered employee
10 for any 24-month period during which the covered em-
11 ployee is employed by the Department for at least 180
12 days.”.

13 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
14 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
15 at the end of the items relating to subchapter I of such
16 chapter the following new item:

 “7413. Continuing education requirement for employees authorized to prescribe
 medication.”.

17 (c) APPLICABILITY.—Section 7413 of title 38, United
18 States Code, as added by subsection (a) shall apply with
19 respect to a 12-month period that begins on or after the
20 date of the enactment of this Act.

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