

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2922

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for partnerships and contracts between the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and eligible academic affiliates for the mutually beneficial coordination, use, or exchange of health-care resources, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 11, 2016

Mr. WHITEHOUSE 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 provide for partnerships and contracts between the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and eligible academic affiliates for the mutually beneficial coordination, use, or exchange of health-care resources, 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 “Enhanced Veteran
5 Healthcare Act of 2016”.

1 **SEC. 2. PARTNERSHIPS AND CONTRACTS WITH ACADEMIC**
2 **AFFILIATES FOR MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL CO-**
3 **ORDINATION, USE, OR EXCHANGE OF**
4 **HEALTH-CARE RESOURCES.**

5 Section 8153(a) of title 38, United States Code, is
6 amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, including
8 pursuant to paragraph (4)” before the period at the
9 end;

10 (2) in paragraph (3)(A)—

11 (A) by striking “(A) If the health-care re-
12 source” and inserting “(A)(i) If the health-care
13 resource”; and

14 (B) by adding at the end the following new
15 clause:

16 “(ii) In the case of a partnership or contract entered
17 into under paragraph (4) for the coordination, use, or ex-
18 change of a clinical service, the use of medical equipment
19 or space, research, the construction or lease of clinical
20 space, the use of any full-time equivalent employee of the
21 Department or contractor of the Department, or the use
22 of any full-time equivalent employee jointly hired by the
23 Department and an eligible academic affiliate, the Sec-
24 retary shall make arrangements for the acquisition of the
25 resource by using procedures other than competitive pro-
26 cedures.”; and

1 (3) by adding at the end the following new
2 paragraphs:

3 “(4) In carrying out paragraph (1), in order to carry
4 out more effectively the primary function of the Veterans
5 Health Administration and notwithstanding any other
6 provision of this section, the Secretary shall seek to enter
7 into partnerships or contracts with eligible academic affili-
8 ates for the mutually beneficial coordination, use, or ex-
9 change of use of covered health-care resources of the De-
10 partment with the goal of improving the access to, and
11 quality of, the hospital care and medical services furnished
12 by the Department.

13 “(5) In this subsection:

14 “(A) The term ‘covered health-care resource’
15 means, with respect to covered agreements or con-
16 tracts, any clinical service, direct patient care, space
17 (whether leased or constructed) used for clinical
18 services or research, and employees responsible for
19 providing direct patient care.

20 “(B) The term ‘eligible academic affiliate’
21 means an accredited school of allopathic medicine,
22 osteopathic medicine, or dentistry, a university
23 health sciences center, or a teaching hospital affili-
24 ated with such a school or center.”.

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