

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1058

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 25, 2017

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT

To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of podiatrists 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “VA Provider Equity
3 Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. ROLE OF PODIATRISTS IN DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
5 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) INCLUSION AS PHYSICIAN.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 74
8 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by add-
9 ing at the end the following new section:

10 **“§ 7413. Treatment of podiatrists; clinical oversight**
11 **standards**

12 “(a) PODIATRISTS.—Except as provided by sub-
13 section (b), a doctor of podiatric medicine who is ap-
14 pointed as a podiatrist under section 7401(1) of this title
15 is eligible for any supervisory position in the Veterans
16 Health Administration to the same degree that a physician
17 appointed under such section is eligible for the position.

18 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF CLINICAL OVERSIGHT
19 STANDARDS.—The Secretary, in consultation with appro-
20 priate stakeholders, shall establish standards to ensure
21 that specialists appointed in the Veterans Health Adminis-
22 tration to supervisory positions do not provide direct clin-
23 ical oversight for purposes of peer review or practice eval-
24 uation for providers of other clinical specialties.”.

25 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
26 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended

1 by inserting after the item relating to section 7412
2 the following new item:

“7413. Treatment of podiatrists; clinical oversight standards.”.

3 (b) MODIFICATION AND CLARIFICATION OF PAY
4 GRADE.—

5 (1) GRADE.—The list in section 7404(b) of
6 such title is amended—

7 (A) by striking “PHYSICIAN AND DEN-
8 TIST SCHEDULE” and inserting “PHYSI-
9 CIAN AND SURGEON (MD/DO),
10 PODIATRIC SURGEON (DPM), AND DEN-
11 TIST AND ORAL SURGEON (DDS, DMD)
12 SCHEDULE”;

13 (B) by striking, “Physician grade” and in-
14 serting “Physician and surgeon grade”; and

15 (C) by striking “PODLATRIST, CHIRO-
16 PRACTOR, AND,” and inserting “CHIRO-
17 PRACTOR AND”.

18 (2) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by
19 paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to a pay pe-
20 riod of the Department of Veterans Affairs begin-
21 ning on or after the date that is 30 days after the
22 date of the enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF REDUCTION IN AMOUNT OF PEN-**
2 **SION FURNISHED BY DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
3 **ERANS AFFAIRS FOR CERTAIN VETERANS**
4 **COVERED BY MEDICAID PLANS FOR SERV-**
5 **ICES FURNISHED BY NURSING FACILITIES.**

6 Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code,
7 is amended by striking “September 30, 2024” and insert-
8 ing “September 30, 2026”.

Passed the House of Representatives July 24, 2017.

Attest: KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.