

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3459

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain improvements in the transparency of the personnel vacancies and staffing levels of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2017

Mr. BROWN of Maryland (for himself and Mr. DEFazio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain improvements in the transparency of the personnel vacancies and staffing levels 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 “VA Staffing and Va-
5 cancies Transparency Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING DEPARTMENT OF**
2 **VETERANS AFFAIRS STAFFING LEVELS.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
4 ings:

5 (1) The Department of Veterans Affairs needs
6 to fill at least 45,000 positions.

7 (2) Prolonged personnel vacancies in the De-
8 partment result in staffing shortages that cause vet-
9 erans to receive delayed benefits and services.

10 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
11 gress that the Department should make the resolution of
12 staffing shortages a top priority.

13 **SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PERSONNEL**
14 **TRANSPARENCY.**

15 (a) PUBLICATION OF STAFFING AND VACANCIES.—

16 (1) WEBSITE REQUIRED.—Not later than 30
17 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
18 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall make publicly
19 available on an internet website of the Department
20 of Veterans Affairs the following information, which
21 shall be displayed by departmental component or, in
22 the case of information relating to Veterans Health
23 Administration positions, by medical facility:

24 (A) The number of personnel encumbering
25 positions.

1 (B) The number of accessions and de-ac-
2 cessions of personnel during the month pre-
3 ceding the date of the publication of the infor-
4 mation.

5 (C) The number of vacancies, by occupa-
6 tion.

7 (D) The number of active job postings that
8 have been filled during the 30-day period end-
9 ing on the date of publication of the informa-
10 tion, including the length of time for which each
11 position was posted prior to being filled.

12 (2) UPDATE OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary
13 shall update the information on the website required
14 under paragraph (1) on a monthly basis.

15 (3) TREATMENT OF CONTRACTOR POSITIONS.—
16 Any Department of Veterans Affairs position that is
17 filled through a contractor employee may not be
18 treated as a Department position for purposes of the
19 information required to be published under para-
20 graph (1).

21 (4) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—On a semi-
22 annual basis, the Inspector General of the Depart-
23 ment shall review the administration of the website
24 required under paragraph (1) and make rec-

1 ommendations relating to the improvement of such
2 administration.

3 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary of Vet-
4 erans Affairs shall submit to Congress an annual report
5 on the steps the Department is taking to achieve full staff-
6 ing capacity. Each such report shall include the amount
7 of additional funds necessary to enable the Department
8 to reach full staffing capacity.

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