

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6612

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to prescribe the technical qualifications for licensed hearing aid specialists of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 23, 2020

Mr. TAKANO (for himself and Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to prescribe the technical qualifications for licensed hearing aid specialists 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. PRESCRIPTION OF TECHNICAL QUALIFICA-**
4 **TIONS FOR LICENSED HEARING AID SPECIAL-**
5 **ISTS AND REQUIREMENT FOR APPOINTMENT**
6 **OF SUCH SPECIALISTS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-

1 erans Affairs shall prescribe the technical qualifications
 2 required under section 7402(a)(14) of title 38, United
 3 States Code, to be appointed as a licensed hearing aid spe-
 4 cialist under section 7401(3) of such title.

5 (b) ELEMENTS FOR QUALIFICATIONS.—In pre-
 6 scribing the qualifications for licensed hearing aid special-
 7 ists under subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure such
 8 qualifications are consistent with the following:

9 (1) Standards of registered apprenticeship pro-
 10 grams for the occupation of hearing aid specialists
 11 approved by the Department of Labor in accordance
 12 with the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known
 13 as the “National Apprenticeship Act”) (50 Stat.
 14 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

15 (2) Standards for licensure of hearing aid spe-
 16 cialists that are required by a majority of States.

17 (3) Competency in completing core tasks for the
 18 occupation of hearing aid specialist as determined by
 19 the Occupational Information Network Database
 20 (commonly known as “O*NET”).

21 (c) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than September 30,
 22 2022, the Secretary shall appoint not fewer than one li-
 23 censed hearing aid specialist at each medical center of the
 24 Department.

1 (d) REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2022,
2 and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the
3 Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the
4 Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Rep-
5 resentatives a report—

6 (1) assessing the progress of the Secretary in
7 appointing licensed hearing aid specialists under
8 subsection (c);

9 (2) assessing potential conflicts or obstacles
10 that prevent the appointment of licensed hearing aid
11 specialists;

12 (3) assessing the factors that led to such con-
13 flicts or obstacles; and

14 (4) indicating the medical centers of the De-
15 partment with vacancies for licensed hearing aid spe-
16 cialists.

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