

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9178

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve access of health care providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs to prescription drug monitoring programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2024

Mr. ZINKE (for himself, Mr. BOST, Mr. VAN ORDEN, and Mr. CISCOMANI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve access of health care providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs to prescription drug monitoring programs, 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 “Veteran Prescription
5 Safety Improvement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAMS**
2 **AND THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
3 **FAIRS.**

4 (a) EXPANSION OF ACCESS OF HEALTH CARE PRO-
5 VIDERS OF THE DEPARTMENT.—Section 1730B of title
6 38, United States Code, is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “to covered
8 patients”; and

9 (2) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (3)
10 and inserting the following:

11 “(3) The term ‘licensed health care provider’
12 means a health care provider who is—

13 “(A) an employee or contractor of the De-
14 partment; and

15 “(B) licensed, certified, or registered by a
16 State to fill or prescribe medication within the
17 scope of practice for the Department.”.

18 (b) GUIDANCE AND TRAINING.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Such section is further
20 amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
21 following:

22 “(b) GUIDANCE AND TRAINING.—(1) The Secretary
23 shall issue guidance to pharmacy personnel of the Depart-
24 ment (including licensed health care providers) that pre-
25 scribes best practices for conducting a query described in
26 subsection (a) upon receipt of a prescription for a con-

1 trolled substance from a health care provider who provides
2 health care to a veteran under section 1703 of this title.

3 “(2) The Secretary shall provide such pharmacy per-
4 sonnel with annual training on—

5 “(A) best practices prescribed under paragraph
6 (1); and

7 “(B) the requirements of State and regional
8 prescription drug monitoring programs.”.

9 (2) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of Vet-
10 erans Affairs shall carry out subsection (b) of such
11 section, as amended by this subsection, not later
12 than one year after the date of the enactment of this
13 Act.

14 (c) AUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—
15 Subsection (l) of section 5701 of such title is amended
16 to read as follows:

17 “(l) Under regulations prescribed the Secretary, the
18 Secretary may disclose information about an individual to
19 a State controlled substance monitoring program, includ-
20 ing a program approved by the Secretary of Health and
21 Human Services under section 3990 of the Public Health
22 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g–3).”.

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