

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 3771

To amend title 38, United States Code, to codify the requirements for appointment, qualifications, and pay for therapeutic medical physicists of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 4, 2026

Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN) 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 codify the requirements for appointment, qualifications, and pay for therapeutic medical physicists 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 “Department of Vet-
5 erans Affairs Therapeutic Medical Physicist Pay Cap Re-
6 lief Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF THERAPEUTIC MEDICAL PHYSI-**
2 **CISTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
3 **AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) APPOINTMENT.—Section 7401(1) of title 38,
5 United States Code, is amended by inserting “therapeutic
6 medical physicists, diagnostic medical physicists,” after
7 “physician assistants,”.

8 (b) QUALIFICATIONS.—Section 7402(b) of such title
9 is amended—

10 (1) by redesignating paragraph (14) as para-
11 graph (16); and

12 (2) by inserting after paragraph (13) the fol-
13 lowing new paragraphs:

14 “(14) THERAPEUTIC MEDICAL PHYSICIST.—To be
15 eligible to be appointed to a therapeutic medical physicist
16 position, a person must—

17 “(A) have completed a post-graduate clinical
18 training program in therapeutic medical physics sat-
19 isfactory to the Secretary; and

20 “(B) be board certified in the field of thera-
21 peutic medical physics by a certifying body approved
22 by the Secretary.

23 “(15) DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL PHYSICIST.—To be eli-
24 gible to be appointed to a diagnostic medical physicist po-
25 sition, a person must—

1 “(A) have completed a post-graduate clinical
2 training program in diagnostic medical physics satis-
3 factory to the Secretary; and

4 “(B) be board certified in the field of diagnostic
5 medical physics by a certifying body approved by the
6 Secretary.”.

7 (c) GRADE.—Section 7404(b) of such title is amend-
8 ed—

9 (1) by inserting “THERAPEUTIC MEDICAL
10 PHYSICIST, DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL PHYSI-
11 CIST,” after “PODIATRIST (DPM),”; and

12 (2) by inserting after “Podiatrist grade optom-
13 etrist grade.” the following:

14 “Therapeutic medical physicist grade.

15 “Diagnostic medical physicist grade.”.

16 (d) PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION.—Section 7421(b)
17 of such title is amended—

18 (1) by redesignating paragraph (9) as para-
19 graph (11); and

20 (2) by inserting after paragraph (8) the fol-
21 lowing new paragraphs:

22 “(9) Therapeutic medical physicists.

23 “(10) Diagnostic medical physicists.”.

24 (e) PAY.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 7431 of such title is
2 amended—

3 (A) by inserting “, Therapeutic Medical
4 Physicist, Diagnostic Medical Physicist” before
5 “, and Dentist Base” each place it appears;

6 (B) by inserting “therapeutic medical
7 physicist, diagnostic medical physicist,” after
8 “podiatrist,” each place it appears;

9 (C) by inserting “therapeutic medical
10 physicists, diagnostic medical physicists,” after
11 “podiatrists,” each place it appears; and

12 (D) in subsection (e)(1)(A), by inserting “,
13 therapeutic medical physicists, diagnostic med-
14 ical physicists,” after “podiatrists”.

15 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—Section 7433
16 of such title is amended by inserting “therapeutic
17 medical physicists, diagnostic medical physicists,”
18 after “podiatrists,” each place it appears.

19 (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading
20 of subchapter III of chapter 74 of such title is
21 amended by inserting “THERAPEUTIC MEDICAL
22 PHYSICISTS, DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL PHYSI-
23 CISTS” after “PODIATRISTS”.

24 (4) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
25 tions at the beginning of chapter 74 of such title is

1 amended by striking the item relating to subchapter
2 III and inserting the following new item:

“SUBCHAPTER III—PAY FOR PHYSICIANS, PODIATRISTS, THERAPEUTIC
MEDICAL PHYSICISTS, DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL PHYSICISTS, AND DENTISTS”.

3 (f) REPORT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
6 retary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Com-
7 mittee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the
8 Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of
9 Representatives a report on the amendments made
10 by this section.

11 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by para-
12 graph (1) shall include an assessment of the fol-
13 lowing:

14 (A) The effects of an increase in pay for
15 therapeutic medical physicists and diagnostic
16 medical physicists employed on a full-time basis
17 within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

18 (B) The effects on therapeutic medical
19 physicists and diagnostic medical physicists who
20 provide care pursuant to an agreement with the
21 Secretary.

22 (C) Any change to costs to the Depart-
23 ment.

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