

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 467

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 25, 2017

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

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## AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that each medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs complies with requirements relating to scheduling veterans for health care appointments, to improve the uniform application of directives of the Department, 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 Scheduling Ac-  
3 countability Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. COMPLIANCE WITH SCHEDULING REQUIREMENTS.**

5 (a) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans  
7 Affairs shall ensure that the director of each medical  
8 facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs annu-  
9 ally certifies to the Secretary that the medical facil-  
10 ity is in full compliance with all provisions of law  
11 and regulations relating to scheduling appointments  
12 for veterans to receive hospital care and medical  
13 services, including pursuant to Veterans Health Ad-  
14 ministration Directive 2010–027, or any successor  
15 directive.

16 (2) PROHIBITION ON WAIVER.—The Secretary  
17 may not waive any provision of the laws or regula-  
18 tions described in paragraph (1) for a medical facil-  
19 ity of the Department if such provision otherwise ap-  
20 plies to the medical facility.

21 (b) EXPLANATION OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—If a direc-  
22 tor of a medical facility of the Department does not make  
23 a certification under subsection (a)(1) for any year, the  
24 director shall submit to the Secretary a report con-  
25 taining—

1           (1) an explanation of why the director is unable  
2           to make such certification; and

3           (2) a description of the actions the director is  
4           taking to ensure full compliance with the laws and  
5           regulations described in such subsection.

6           (c) PROHIBITION ON BONUSES BASED ON NON-  
7 COMPLIANCE.—

8           (1) IN GENERAL.—If a director of a medical fa-  
9           cility of the Department does not make a certifi-  
10          cation under subsection (a)(1) for any year, each  
11          covered official described in paragraph (2) may not  
12          receive an award or bonus under chapter 45 or 53  
13          of title 5, United States Code, or any other award  
14          or bonus authorized under such title or title 38,  
15          United States Code, during the year following the  
16          year in which the certification was not made.

17          (2) COVERED OFFICIAL.—A covered official de-  
18          scribed in this paragraph is each official who serves  
19          in the following positions at a medical facility of the  
20          Department during a year, or portion thereof, for  
21          which the director does not make a certification  
22          under subsection (a)(1):

23                   (A) The director.

24                   (B) The chief of staff.

25                   (C) The associate director.

1 (D) The associate director for patient care.

2 (E) The deputy chief of staff.

3 (d) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall annually  
4 submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the  
5 House of Representative and the Senate a report con-  
6 taining, with respect to the year covered by the report—

7 (1) a list of each medical facility of the Depart-  
8 ment for which a certification was made under sub-  
9 section (a)(1); and

10 (2) a list of each medical facility of the Depart-  
11 ment for which such a certification was not made,  
12 including a copy of each report submitted to the  
13 Secretary under subsection (b).

14 **SEC. 3. STANDARDIZED APPLICATION OF DIRECTIVES AND**  
15 **POLICIES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**  
16 **FAIRS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
18 shall ensure that the directives and policies of the Depart-  
19 ment of Veterans Affairs apply to, and are implemented  
20 by, each office or facility of the Department in a standard-  
21 ized manner, including such offices and facilities at the  
22 local level.

23 (b) NOTIFICATION.—If the Secretary does not apply  
24 and implement the directives and policies of the Depart-  
25 ment in a standardized manner pursuant to subsection

1 (a), including by waiving such a directive or policy with  
2 respect to an office or facility of the Department, the Sec-  
3 retary shall notify the Committees on Veterans' Affairs  
4 of the House of Representatives and the Senate of such  
5 nonstandardized application or implementation, including  
6 an explanation for the nonstandardized application or im-  
7 plementation, as the case may be.

Passed the House of Representatives May 24, 2017.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

*Clerk.*