

Union Calendar No. 97

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 467

[Report No. 115–149, Part I]

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 12, 2017

Mrs. WALORSKI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

MAY 23, 2017

Additional sponsors: Ms. SINEMA and Mr. YOUNG of Iowa

MAY 23, 2017

Reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

MAY 23, 2017

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “VA Scheduling Ac-
5 countability Act”.

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

7 (a) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—

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

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

23 (b) EXPLANATION OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—If a direc-
24 tor of a medical facility of the Department does not make
25 a certification under subsection (a)(1) for any year, the

1 director shall submit to the Secretary a report con-
2 taining—

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

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

8 (c) PROHIBITION ON BONUSES BASED ON NON-
9 COMPLIANCE.—

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

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

25 (A) The director.

1 (B) The chief of staff.

2 (C) The associate director.

3 (D) The associate director for patient care.

4 (E) The deputy chief of staff.

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

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

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

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

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

1 (b) NOTIFICATION.—If the Secretary does not apply
2 and implement the directives and policies of the Depart-
3 ment in a standardized manner pursuant to subsection
4 (a), including by waiving such a directive or policy with
5 respect to an office or facility of the Department, the Sec-
6 retary shall notify the Committees on Veterans' Affairs
7 of the House of Representatives and the Senate of such
8 nonstandardized application or implementation, including
9 an explanation for the nonstandardized application or im-
10 plementation, as the case may be.

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