

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3530

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enforce the licensure requirement for medical providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2019

Mr. CLOUD (for himself, Mr. BERGMAN, and Mr. PETERSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enforce the licensure requirement for medical providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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 “Improving Confidence
5 in Veterans’ Care Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ENFORCEMENT OF LICENSURE REQUIREMENT FOR**
2 **MEDICAL PROVIDERS OF THE DEPARTMENT**
3 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7402 of title 38, United
5 States Code, is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (f)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “more
8 than one” and inserting “one or more”; and

9 (B) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting be-
10 fore the semicolon the following: “, or, if the
11 position requires the person to prescribe con-
12 trolled substances, the Drug Enforcement
13 Agency registration of the person has been ter-
14 minated, revoked, or surrendered, and the per-
15 son has not received a waiver from the Drug
16 Enforcement Agency”;

17 (2) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-
18 section (h); and

19 (3) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-
20 lowing new subsection (g):

21 “(g)(1) The Secretary shall take prompt and appro-
22 priate adverse personnel actions pursuant to this chapter
23 against an employee who—

24 “(A) is not licensed, registered, certified, or in
25 receipt of a waiver, as required by subsection (f); or

1 “(B) who does not promptly notify the Sec-
2 retary of any suspension in such license, registra-
3 tion, or certification.

4 “(2) The Secretary shall conduct biennial audits of
5 employees covered by subsection (f) to ensure that the em-
6 ployee is licensed, registered, or certified as required by
7 such subsection.

8 “(3) The Secretary shall ensure that the hiring proc-
9 ess for employees covered by subsection (f) includes—

10 “(A) requesting from the individual applying
11 for the position the status of the licensure, registra-
12 tion, or certification of the individual as required by
13 such subsection, including a description of any ac-
14 tions the individual must take to fulfill such licen-
15 sure, registration, or certification requirement before
16 beginning such employment; and

17 “(B) verifying such status before the individual
18 begins such employment.

19 “(4) The Secretary shall provide annual training to
20 directors of Veterans Integrated Service Networks, direc-
21 tors of Department health-care facilities, and chiefs of
22 staff of Department health-care facilities (and such other
23 employees as the directors or chiefs of staff determine ap-
24 propriate) with respect to carrying out this subsection and
25 subsection (f).”.

1 (b) TRAINING.—Not later than 60 days after the date
2 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans
3 Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Af-
4 fairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a
5 report describing the training that will be provided under
6 subsection (g)(4) of section 7402 of title 38, United States
7 Code, as added by subsection (a).

○