

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4013

AN ACT

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with necessary flexibility in staffing the Veterans Health Administration.

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To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with necessary flexibility in staffing the Veterans Health Administration.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) Under proposals for national health care re-
2 form, the Department of Veterans Affairs would be
3 required to establish an enrollment system for veter-
4 ans and to provide health care on a competitive basis
5 with other, private health care providers.

6 (2) In order to be able to implement changes
7 contemplated by proposals for national health care
8 reform, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs must have
9 flexibility to restructure and reform the Veterans
10 Health Administration as necessary without exter-
11 nally imposed constraints on full-time equivalent em-
12 ployee (FTEE) positions levels.

13 (3) The Office of Management and Budget, as
14 part of an announced plan to require a reduction
15 over five years of 252,000 FTEE positions in the
16 executive branch, proposes to require reductions of
17 FTEE positions totaling 25,493 in personnel of the
18 Veterans Health Administration, a reduction in per-
19 sonnel which would severely impede the ability of the
20 Department of Veterans Affairs to implement na-
21 tional health care reform and to meet the respon-
22 sibilities of the Department under existing law.

1 **SEC. 2. EMPLOYMENT LEVEL IN VETERANS HEALTH AD-**
2 **MINISTRATION.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 38, United
4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the follow-
5 ing new section:

6 **“§ 713. Full-time equivalent employees: limitation on**
7 **reduction**

8 “(a) During the five-year period beginning on Octo-
9 ber 1, 1994, no reduction may be made in the number
10 of full-time equivalent employees in the Veterans Health
11 Administration other than as specifically required by a law
12 directing reductions in personnel or positions of the Veter-
13 ans Health Administration or by the availability of funds.
14 During that period, the personnel of the Veterans Health
15 Administration shall be managed on the basis of the needs
16 of eligible veterans and the availability of funds.

17 “(b) During the period specified in subsection (a), no
18 law imposing a restriction on hiring by executive agencies
19 for the purpose of achieving workforce reductions shall
20 apply to the Veterans Health Administration.

21 “(c) No law may be construed as suspending or modi-
22 fying this section unless such law specifically refers to or
23 amends this section.”.

24 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
25 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
26 at the end the following new item:

“713. Full-time equivalent employees: limitation on reduction.”.

1 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON STREAMLINING.**

2 Not later than January 15, 1995, the Secretary of
3 Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veter-
4 ans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives
5 a report on streamlining activities in the Veterans Health
6 Administration. The report shall include a description
7 of—

8 (1) opportunities to improve the efficiency and
9 effectiveness of delivery of health care services in the
10 Veterans Health Administration through consolida-
11 tion, reorganization, or other means;

12 (2) plans and actions taken to realize such effi-
13 ciencies; and

14 (3) impediments to implementing particular
15 plans.

Passed the House of Representatives April 28, 1994.

Attest:

Clerk.