

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3254

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense to develop and disseminate education and training programs on the medical responses to the consequences of terrorist activities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 8, 2001

Mr. BUYER (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. SNYDER, and Mr. MCHUGH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, 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

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense to develop and disseminate education and training programs on the medical responses to the consequences of terrorist activities.

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 “Medical Education for
5 National Defense in the 21st Century Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL EDU-**
2 **CATION PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Subchapter II of chapter 73
4 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at
5 the end the following new section:

6 **“§ 7323. Emergency medical education: joint program**
7 **with Department of Defense**

8 “(a) JOINT EDUCATION PROGRAM.—The Secretary
9 and the Secretary of Defense shall carry out a joint pro-
10 gram to develop and disseminate a series of model edu-
11 cation and training programs on the medical responses to
12 the consequences of terrorist activities. The Secretaries
13 shall enter into an agreement for a partnership to imple-
14 ment the joint program.

15 “(b) IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES.—Within the Depart-
16 ment of Veterans Affairs, the joint program shall be car-
17 ried out through the Under Secretary for Health. Within
18 the Department of Defense, the joint program shall be
19 carried out through the F. Edward Hébert School of Medi-
20 cine of the Uniformed Services University of the Health
21 Sciences.

22 “(c) CONTENT OF PROGRAMS.—The education and
23 training programs developed under the joint program shall
24 be based on programs established at the F. Edward
25 Hébert School of Medicine and shall include, at a min-

1 imum, training for health care professionals in the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(1) Recognition of chemical, biological, and ra-
4 diological agents that may be used in terrorist activi-
5 ties.

6 “(2) Identification of the potential symptoms of
7 those agents.

8 “(3) Understanding of the potential long-term
9 health consequences, including psychological effects,
10 resulting from exposure to those agents.

11 “(4) Emergency treatment for exposure to
12 those agents.

13 “(5) An appropriate course of followup treat-
14 ment, supportive care, and referral.

15 “(6) Actions that can be taken while providing
16 care for exposure to those agents to protect against
17 contamination.

18 “(7) Information on how to seek to consultative
19 support and to report suspected or actual use of
20 those agents.

21 “(d) POTENTIAL TRAINEES.—In designing the edu-
22 cation and training programs under this section, the Sec-
23 retaries shall ensure that different programs are designed
24 for health-care professionals at various levels. The pro-
25 grams shall be designed to be disseminated to health pro-

1 fessions students, graduate medical education trainees,
2 and health practitioners in a variety of fields.

3 “(e) CONSULTATION.—In establishing the joint med-
4 ical education and training program under this section,
5 the two Secretaries shall consult with appropriate rep-
6 resentatives of accrediting, certifying, and coordinating or-
7 ganizations in the field of health professions education.”.

8 (2) The table of sections at the beginning of such
9 chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating
10 to section 7322 the following new item:

“7323. Emergency medical education: joint program with Department of De-
fense.”.

11 (b) INITIAL FUNDING.—Funds for fiscal year 2002
12 for the joint medical education and training program es-
13 tablished under section 7323 of title 38, United States
14 Code, as added by subsection (a), shall be provided from
15 funds made available under Public Law 107–38.

16 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The Secretary of Veterans
17 Affairs and the Secretary of Defense shall implement sec-
18 tion 7323 of title 38, United States Code, as added by
19 subsection (a), not later than the end of the 90-day period
20 beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

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