

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 297

To revive and expand the Intermediate Care Technician Pilot Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 28, 2015

Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. UDALL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To revive and expand the Intermediate Care Technician Pilot Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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 “Frontlines to Lifelines
5 Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. REVIVAL AND EXPANSION OF INTERMEDIATE CARE**
2 **TECHNICIAN PILOT PROGRAM OF DEPART-**
3 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) REVIVAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
5 shall revive the Intermediate Care Technician Pilot Pro-
6 gram of the Department of Veterans Affairs that was car-
7 ried out by the Secretary between January 2013 and Feb-
8 ruary 2014.

9 (b) TECHNICIANS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall expand
11 the pilot program under subsection (a) to include
12 not less than 250 intermediate care technicians who
13 are participating in the pilot program.

14 (2) FACILITIES.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—Any intermediate care
16 technician hired pursuant to paragraph (1) may
17 be assigned to a medical facility of the Depart-
18 ment as determined by the Secretary for pur-
19 poses of this section.

20 (B) PRIORITY.—In assigning intermediate
21 care technicians under subparagraph (A), the
22 Secretary shall give priority to facilities at
23 which veterans have the longest wait times for
24 appointments for the receipt of hospital care or
25 medical services from the Department, as deter-

1 mined by the Secretary for purposes of this sec-
2 tion.

3 (c) **TERMINATION.**—The Secretary shall carry out
4 the pilot program under subsection (a) during the three-
5 year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this
6 Act.

7 (d) **HOSPITAL CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES DE-**
8 **FINED.**—In this section, the terms “hospital care” and
9 “medical services” have the meanings given such terms
10 in section 1701 of title 38, United States Code.

11 **SEC. 3. TRANSFER OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDER**
12 **CREDENTIALING DATA FROM SECRETARY OF**
13 **DEFENSE TO SECRETARY OF VETERANS AF-**
14 **FAIRS.**

15 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—In a case in which the Secretary
16 of Veterans Affairs hires a covered health care provider,
17 the Secretary of Defense shall, after receiving a request
18 from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the
19 credentialing data of the Secretary of Defense relating to
20 such health care provider, transfer to the Secretary of Vet-
21 erans Affairs such credentialing data.

22 (b) **COVERED HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.**—For pur-
23 poses of this section, a covered provider is a health care
24 provider who—

1 (1) is or was employed by the Secretary of De-
2 fense;

3 (2) provides or provided health care related
4 services as part of such employment; and

5 (3) was credentialed by the Secretary of De-
6 fense.

7 (c) POLICIES AND REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of
8 Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense shall estab-
9 lish such policies and promulgate such regulations as may
10 be necessary to carry out this section.

11 (d) CREDENTIALING DEFINED.—In this section, the
12 term “credentialing” means the systematic process of
13 screening and evaluating qualifications and other creden-
14 tials, including licensure, required education, relevant
15 training and experience, and current competence and
16 health status.

17 **SEC. 4. INDEPENDENT PRACTICE OF CERTAIN ADVANCED**
18 **PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES OF DEPART-**
19 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any provision of
21 law of a State, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may au-
22 thorize a covered nurse to practice independently, without
23 supervision or direction of others, under a set of privileges
24 approved by the Secretary, regardless of the State in
25 which the covered nurse is employed by the Secretary.

1 (b) COVERED NURSES.—For purposes of this section,
2 a covered nurse is an advanced practice registered nurse
3 who is employed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in
4 any of the following specializations:

5 (1) Nurse Midwife.

6 (2) Clinical Nurse Specialist, with respect to
7 the provision of mental health care.

8 (3) Nurse Practitioner.

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