

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1058

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## AN ACT

To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of podiatrists in 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “VA Provider Equity  
3 Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. ROLE OF PODIATRISTS IN DEPARTMENT OF VET-**  
5 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) INCLUSION AS PHYSICIAN.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 74  
8 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by add-  
9 ing at the end the following new section:

10 **“§ 7413. Treatment of podiatrists; clinical oversight**  
11 **standards**

12 “(a) PODIATRISTS.—Except as provided by sub-  
13 section (b), a doctor of podiatric medicine who is ap-  
14 pointed as a podiatrist under section 7401(1) of this title  
15 is eligible for any supervisory position in the Veterans  
16 Health Administration to the same degree that a physician  
17 appointed under such section is eligible for the position.

18 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF CLINICAL OVERSIGHT  
19 STANDARDS.—The Secretary, in consultation with appro-  
20 priate stakeholders, shall establish standards to ensure  
21 that specialists appointed in the Veterans Health Adminis-  
22 tration to supervisory positions do not provide direct clin-  
23 ical oversight for purposes of peer review or practice eval-  
24 uation for providers of other clinical specialties.”.

25 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
26 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended

1 by inserting after the item relating to section 7412  
2 the following new item:

“7413. Treatment of podiatrists; clinical oversight standards.”.

3 (b) MODIFICATION AND CLARIFICATION OF PAY  
4 GRADE.—

5 (1) GRADE.—The list in section 7404(b) of  
6 such title is amended—

7 (A) by striking “PHYSICIAN AND DEN-  
8 TIST SCHEDULE” and inserting “PHYSI-  
9 CIAN AND SURGEON (MD/DO),  
10 PODIATRIC SURGEON (DPM), AND DEN-  
11 TIST AND ORAL SURGEON (DDS, DMD)  
12 SCHEDULE”;

13 (B) by striking, “Physician grade” and in-  
14 serting “Physician and surgeon grade”; and

15 (C) by striking “PODLATRIST, CHIRO-  
16 PRACTOR, AND,” and inserting “CHIRO-  
17 PRACTOR AND”.

18 (2) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by  
19 paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to a pay pe-  
20 riod of the Department of Veterans Affairs begin-  
21 ning on or after the date that is 30 days after the  
22 date of the enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF REDUCTION IN AMOUNT OF PEN-**  
2 **SION FURNISHED BY DEPARTMENT OF VET-**  
3 **ERANS AFFAIRS FOR CERTAIN VETERANS**  
4 **COVERED BY MEDICAID PLANS FOR SERV-**  
5 **ICES FURNISHED BY NURSING FACILITIES.**

6 Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code,  
7 is amended by striking “September 30, 2024” and insert-  
8 ing “September 30, 2026”.

Passed the House of Representatives July 24, 2017.

Attest:

*Clerk.*



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