

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2722

To limit the deferral or transfer of Federal funds made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to limit layoffs and other personnel actions at the Department, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 8, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. THANEDAR, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MANNION, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. SEWELL, and Ms. CROCKETT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To limit the deferral or transfer of Federal funds made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to limit layoffs and other personnel actions at the Department, 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 “VA Funding and
5 Workforce Protection Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON DEFERRAL OR TRANSFER OF FED-**
2 **ERAL FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE FOR DEPART-**
3 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
5 sion of law, including the Impoundment Control Act of
6 1974, discretionary appropriations made available for the
7 Department of Veterans Affairs (in this Act referred to
8 as the “Department”), including the Veterans Health Ad-
9 ministration, may not be impounded, transferred, or re-
10 programmed unless specific statutory authority is enacted
11 into law after the date of the enactment of this Act, with
12 express reference to this Act, permitting such impound-
13 ment, transfer, or reprogramming.

14 (b) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary of the Depart-
15 ment of Veterans Affairs (in this Act referred to as the
16 “Secretary”) shall notify the Committees on Veterans’ Af-
17 fairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate if
18 the Secretary determines that the Department is within
19 30 days of having a shortfall of funding.

20 **SEC. 3. PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS FOR DEPARTMENT OF**
21 **VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

22 (a) EXEMPTION FROM HIRING FREEZE.—The De-
23 partment shall be exempt from any hiring freeze issued
24 by the President, the Secretary, or the Director of the Of-
25 fice of Personnel Management during the period beginning
26 on January 20, 2025, and ending on January 20, 2029.

1 (b) REINSTATEMENT OF VETERANS.—With respect
2 to any veteran (as that term is defined in section 101 of
3 title 38, United States Code) who was a career employee
4 of the Department and whom the Secretary removed from
5 employment with the Department during the period begin-
6 ning on January 20, 2025, and ending on the date of the
7 enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

8 (1) reinstate such veteran to the position (or
9 equivalent position) such veteran occupied on the
10 date that is one day before the date of removal; and

11 (2) exempt such veteran from separation under
12 any reduction in force that occurs before January
13 20, 2029.

14 (c) LIMITATION ON LAYOFFS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit
16 written notice, to the Committees on Veterans' Af-
17 fairs of the House of Representatives and the Sen-
18 ate, not later than 15 days before the date that the
19 Department will remove any officer or employee
20 under a reduction in force or an agency reorganiza-
21 tion.

22 (2) PROBATIONARY EMPLOYEES.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any
24 other provision of law, no employee of the De-
25 partment in probationary status may be re-

1 moved from a position at the Department with-
2 out the enactment into law after the date of the
3 enactment of this section, with express ref-
4 erence to this section, permitting such removal.

5 (B) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall
6 submit to Congress—

7 (i) on the date the Secretary removes
8 a probationary employee for poor perform-
9 ance, a report that includes the reasons for
10 the removal, the employee's most recent
11 performance appraisal, and the removal
12 notice submitted to the employee; and

13 (ii) not later than 30 days after the
14 date of the enactment of this Act and
15 every 30 days thereafter, a list of any pro-
16 bationary employees at the Department
17 that received a removal notice during the
18 period covered by the report.

19 **SEC. 4. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE.**

20 Not later than 30 days after the date of the enact-
21 ment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary
22 shall certify (in writing), to the Committees on Appropria-
23 tions of the House of Representatives and the Senate and
24 the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Rep-

1 representatives and the Senate, that the Secretary is in com-
2 pliance with the requirements of this Act.

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