

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1871

To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of podiatrists in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

Mr. CASSIDY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “VA Provider Equity
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ROLE OF PODIATRISTS IN DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
7 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

8 (a) INCLUSION AS PHYSICIAN.—

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

4 **“§ 7413. Treatment of podiatrists; clinical oversight**
 5 **standards**

6 “(a) PODIATRISTS.—Except as provided by sub-
 7 section (b), a doctor of podiatric medicine who is ap-
 8 pointed as a podiatrist under section 7401(1) of this title
 9 is eligible for any supervisory position in the Veterans
 10 Health Administration to the same degree that a physician
 11 appointed under such section is eligible for the position.

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

19 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 20 tions at the beginning of chapter 74 of such title is
 21 amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-
 22 tion 7412 the following new item:

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

23 (b) MODIFICATION AND CLARIFICATION OF PAY
 24 GRADE.—

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

3 (A) by striking “PHYSICIAN AND DEN-
4 TIST SCHEDULE” and inserting “PHYSI-
5 CIAN AND SURGEON (MD/DO), PODIA-
6 TRIC SURGEON (DPM), AND DENTIST
7 AND ORAL SURGEON (DDS, DMD)
8 SCHEDULE”;

9 (B) by striking, “Physician grade” and in-
10 sserting “Physician and surgeon grade”; and

11 (C) by striking “PODLATRIST, CHIRO-
12 PRACTOR, AND” and inserting “CHIRO-
13 PRACTOR AND”.

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

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