

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 450

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to expedite the onboarding process for new medical providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to reduce the duration of the hiring process for such medical providers, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 12, 2019

Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to expedite the onboarding process for new medical providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to reduce the duration of the hiring process for such medical providers, 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 “Veterans Improved Ac-
5 cess and Care Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON EXPEDITING THE DEPART-**
2 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROCESS FOR**
3 **ONBOARDING NEW MEDICAL PROVIDERS.**

4 (a) PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
6 Affairs shall carry out a pilot program to assess the
7 feasibility and advisability of expediting the process
8 of the Veterans Health Administration for onboard-
9 ing new medical providers.

10 (2) GOAL FOR PROGRAM.—Under the pilot pro-
11 gram, the Secretary shall seek to reduce the length
12 of time it takes to onboard medical providers to no
13 more than 60 days.

14 (b) LOCATIONS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall select
16 not fewer than ten medical facilities of the Depart-
17 ment of Veterans Affairs at which to carry out the
18 pilot program.

19 (2) REGIONAL DIVERSITY.—The medical facili-
20 ties selected under paragraph (1) shall be located in
21 regionally diverse areas, as determined by the Sec-
22 retary.

23 (3) PRIORITY.—In selecting medical facilities
24 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give pri-
25 ority to medical facilities facing hiring shortages of
26 licensed independent medical providers.

1 (c) ONBOARDING PROCESS DEFINED.—In this sec-
 2 tion, the term “onboarding process” means the process of
 3 bringing on a medical provider applicant after the medical
 4 provider is offered a tentative position, including certifi-
 5 cation of credentialing, background investigation, assess-
 6 ment of health status, and such other actions as are nec-
 7 essary for starting employment.

8 **SEC. 3. STRATEGY TO REDUCE DURATION OF HIRING**
 9 **PROCESS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
 10 **FAIRS FOR LICENSED PROFESSIONAL MED-**
 11 **ICAL PROVIDERS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
 13 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
 14 erans Affairs shall submit to Congress a strategy to reduce
 15 the duration of the hiring process of the Department of
 16 Veterans Affairs for licensed professional medical pro-
 17 viders by half.

18 (b) EXPEDITED CERTIFICATION.—The strategy sub-
 19 mitted under subsection (a) shall describe how the overall
 20 certification of credentials process of the Department for
 21 licensed professional medical providers can be expedited.

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