

## S 1188

### Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Programs Enhancement Act of 2001

**Congress:** 107 (2001–2003, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Armed Forces and National Security

**Introduced:** Jul 17, 2001

**Current Status:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 190.

**Latest Action:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 190. (Oct 10, 2001)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/107th-congress/senate-bill/1188>

#### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Rockefeller, John D., IV [D-WV]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** WV • **Chamber:** Senate

#### Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cleland, Max [D-GA]	D · GA		Jul 17, 2001
Sen. Specter, Arlen [R-PA]	R · PA		Jul 18, 2001

#### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Oct 10, 2001

#### Subjects & Policy Tags

##### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

#### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
107 HR 3447	Related bill	Jan 23, 2002: Became Public Law No: 107-135.
107 HR 3017	Identical bill	Oct 31, 2001: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Programs Enhancement Act of 2001 - **Title I: Enhancement of Nurse**

**Recruitment and Retention Authorities** - Department of Veterans Affairs Nurse Recruitment and Retention

Enhancement Act of 2001 - **Subtitle A: Recruitment Authorities** - Revises the Department of Veterans Affairs (Department) employee incentive scholarship program to: (1) repeal a provision requiring commencement of program participation prior to December 31, 2001; (2) reduce from two years to one the required period of continuous Department employment for program participation; (3) revise scholarship amounts; and (4) increase from three to six years the number of school years for which a scholarship may be paid while limiting the total payment to the cost of three years of full-time coursework.

(Sec. 112) Repeals a provision terminating on December 31, 2001, the education debt reduction program. Increases the maximum debt reduction amount under such program and allows the annual adjustment of such amount. Allows the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, until December 31, 2001, to expand the number of individuals eligible under such program.

(Sec. 113) Requires the Secretary to report to the congressional veterans' committees on the use of the authority to request waivers of pay reduction for reemployed annuitants in order to meet requirements for appointments to nurse positions.

**Subtitle B: Retention Authorities** - Authorizes additional pay for Saturday duty for health care professionals in the Department's Veterans Health Administration (VHA).

(Sec. 122) Allows unused sick leave to be included in the annuity computation for VHA registered nurses.

(Sec. 123) Directs the Secretary to: (1) evaluate the efficacy of the Department's nurse managed health care clinics; (2) establish a nationwide policy on the staffing of Department medical facilities; (3) report on the use of authorities for retaining experienced nurses; and (4) report on mandatory overtime required of licensed nurses and nurse assistants providing direct patient care.

**Subtitle C: Other Authorities** - Requires the Department's Director of Nursing Service to report directly to the Under Secretary for Health.

(Sec. 132) Makes Federal annuity computation provisions inapplicable to the part-time service before April 7, 1986, of a Department registered nurse, physician assistant, or expanded-function dental auxiliary, instead requiring such service to be credited as full-time service.

**Title II: Other Matters** - Authorizes the Secretary to provide a service dog to any veteran who is entitled to disability compensation and: (1) hearing-impaired; (2) suffering from a spinal cord injury or dysfunction; or (3) experiencing any other chronic physical or mental impairment that substantially limits mobility, hearing, or activities of daily living.

(Sec. 202) Adds as an additional basis for determining a veteran's inability to defray expenses of necessary medical care whether the veteran is eligible for treatment as a low-income family under the United States Housing Act.

(Sec. 203) Requires amounts for activities of the field offices of the Department's Office of Research Compliance and Assurance to be derived from amounts appropriated for the VHA for Medical Care, rather than from amounts appropriated for the VHA for Medical and Prosthetic Research.

## Actions Timeline

---

- **Oct 10, 2001:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Reported by Senator Rockefeller with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title. With written report No. 107-80.
- **Oct 10, 2001:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Reported by Senator Rockefeller with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title. With written report No. 107-80.
- **Oct 10, 2001:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 190.
- **Aug 2, 2001:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Jul 19, 2001:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held.
- **Jul 17, 2001:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 17, 2001:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S7819-7820)
- **Jul 17, 2001:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (text of measure as introduced: CR S7820-7822)