

HR 4231

Department of Veterans Affairs Nurse Recruitment and Retention Act of 2004

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Apr 28, 2004

Current Status: Received in the Senate.

Latest Action: Received in the Senate. (Sep 30, 2004)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/house-bill/4231>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Simmons, Rob [R-CT-2]

Party: Republican • **State:** CT • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]	R · NJ		Apr 30, 2004
Rep. Bilirakis, Michael [R-FL-9]	R · FL		May 20, 2004

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Reported by	May 13, 2004

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
108 HR 4020	Procedurally related	May 13, 2004: -Provision incorporated. See H.R. 4231, Section 6.

Department of Veterans Affairs Nurse Recruitment and Retention Act of 2004 - Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to designate a health care service region, or section within such a region, in which health care facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs are adversely affected by a shortage of qualified nurses, and to conduct a pilot program in such region or section on the use of innovative human-capital tools and techniques in the recruitment of qualified nurses for such positions. Requires the Secretary, as part of the pilot program, to: (1) identify and use private-sector nurse recruitment practices that have proven effective; and (2) revise procedures and systems to reduce the length of the hiring process. Requires a report from the Secretary to the congressional veterans' committees on the extent to which the pilot program achieved the goal of improving the recruitment and retention of nurses in Department health-care facilities.

Authorizes the Secretary, with respect to appointed nurses, to provide: (1) a three 12-hour day work schedule, with authorized overtime after a 36-hour workweek; (2) a seven day, 10-hour work schedule for each two-week period, with authorized overtime after working 80 hours within such period; and (3) a nine-month work period with three months off, with such nurses paid at 75 percent of the full-time rate.

Includes dental hygienists, dental assistants, and blind rehabilitation specialists within those positions which the Secretary is authorized to make appointments.

Authorizes the Secretary to make payments to States to assist State homes in the hiring and retention of nurses and the reduction of nursing shortages at State homes. Limits payment amounts. Requires, from each State home receiving such assistance, an annual report to the Secretary on the use of such funds.

Removes the requirement that the Department's Under Secretary for Health be a doctor of medicine.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 30, 2004:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H7887-7888)
- **Sep 30, 2004:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 411 - 1 (Roll no. 483).(text: CR 9/30/2004 H7797-7798)
- **Sep 30, 2004:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 411 - 1 (Roll no. 483). (text: CR 9/30/2004 H7797-7798)
- **Sep 30, 2004:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Sep 30, 2004:** Received in the Senate.
- **Sep 29, 2004:** Mr. Smith (NJ) moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Sep 29, 2004:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H7797-7802)
- **Sep 29, 2004:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 4231.
- **Sep 29, 2004:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Jun 9, 2004:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H. Rept. 108-538.
- **Jun 9, 2004:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 312.
- **May 19, 2004:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **May 19, 2004:** Ordered to be Reported in the Nature of a Substitute by Voice Vote.
- **May 13, 2004:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **May 13, 2004:** Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Voice Vote.
- **May 6, 2004:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **May 6, 2004:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **Apr 28, 2004:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 28, 2004:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E701-702)
- **Apr 28, 2004:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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