

S 2377

Veterans Health Care Quality Improvement Act

**Congress:** 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

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

**Introduced:** Nov 16, 2007

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (text of measure as introduced: CR S1

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (text of measure as introduced: CR S14625-14627) (Nov 16, 2007)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/senate-bill/2377>

Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]

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

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Obama, Barack [D-IL]	D · IL		Nov 16, 2007

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Nov 16, 2007

Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
110 HR 4463	Identical bill	<b>Dec 14, 2007:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Veterans Health Care Quality Improvement Act - Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to prescribe standards for appointment and practice as a physician within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Requires: (1) applicants to provide certain information, including each lawsuit, civil action, or other claim against the individual for medical malpractice or negligence, and their results; (2) each appointee to disclose any judgments against the individual for medical malpractice or negligence and any payments made; and (3) physicians already employed within the VHA to disclose such information. Prohibits a new appointment without: (1) approval of the regional director of the Veterans Integrated Services Network (Network) in which the individual will serve; (2) board certification in the specialties in which the individual will practice; and (3) a license to practice medicine in that state.

Requires: (1) the VHA's Under Secretary of Health to designate a National Quality Assurance Officer for the VHA quality assurance program; (2) each Network regional director to appoint a quality assurance officer; and (3) the director of each VHA medical facility to appoint a quality assurance officer.

Directs the Secretary to review VA policies for maintaining health care quality and patient safety at VA medical facilities.

Requires the Secretary, in order to recruit and retain VHA physicians in hard-to-fill positions, to: (1) repay certain educational loans for individuals who agree to serve for at least three years as a VHA physician; (2) reimburse tuition for medical students who agree to serve as a VHA physician after such education; and (3) enroll in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program an individual who agrees to serve as a VHA physician for at least five days per month. Encourages the Secretary to undertake additional incentives to encourage individuals to serve or practice as VHA physicians.

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### **Actions Timeline**

- **Nov 16, 2007:** Introduced in Senate
- **Nov 16, 2007:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S14624-14625)
- **Nov 16, 2007:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (text of measure as introduced: CR S14625-14627)