

HR 568

Veterans Health Care Quality Improvement Act

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jan 15, 2009

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Jan 16, 2009)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-bill/568>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Costello, Jerry F. [D-IL-12]

Party: Democratic • State: IL • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Mitchell, Harry E. [D-AZ-5]	D · AZ		Jan 15, 2009
Rep. Shimkus, John [R-IL-19]	R · IL		Jan 15, 2009
Rep. Whitfield, Ed [R-KY-1]	R · KY		Jan 15, 2009
Rep. Clay, Wm. Lacy [D-MO-1]	D · MO		Jul 8, 2009

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Referred To	Jan 15, 2009
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Jan 16, 2009

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 S 246	Related bill	Jan 14, 2009: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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 approval of the director of the Veterans Integrated Services Network (Network) in which the individual will serve. Directs the Secretary to encourage directors to hire physicians who are board-eligible or board-certified.

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**

- **Jan 16, 2009:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Jan 15, 2009:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 15, 2009:** Referred to House Veterans' Affairs
- **Jan 15, 2009:** Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
- **Jan 15, 2009:** Referred to House Oversight and Government Reform