

## HR 2145

Physician Ambassadors Helping Veterans Act

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

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

**Introduced:** Apr 30, 2015

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (May 26, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/2145>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Culberson, John Abney [R-TX-7]

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

### Cosponsors (10 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Farenthold, Blake [R-TX-27]	R · TX		Apr 30, 2015
Rep. Hensarling, Jeb [R-TX-5]	R · TX		Apr 30, 2015
Rep. Huelskamp, Tim [R-KS-1]	R · KS		Apr 30, 2015
Rep. Thornberry, Mac [R-TX-13]	R · TX		Apr 30, 2015
Rep. O'Rourke, Beto [D-TX-16]	D · TX		Jun 12, 2015
Rep. Olson, Pete [R-TX-22]	R · TX		Jul 15, 2015
Del. Bordallo, Madeleine Z. [D-GU-At Large]	D · GU		Sep 9, 2015
Rep. Ribble, Reid J. [R-WI-8]	R · WI		Sep 9, 2015
Rep. Rouzer, David [R-NC-7]	R · NC		Sep 10, 2015
Rep. Stutzman, Marlin A. [R-IN-3]	R · IN		Oct 23, 2015

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	May 26, 2015

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Armed Forces and National Security

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 563	Related bill	Sep 16, 2015: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-212.

## **Physician Ambassadors Helping Veterans Act**

Requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to use its authority to employ certain personnel without regard to civil service or classification laws, rules, or regulations to employ physicians on a without compensation basis in any practice area or specialty for which: (1) the average waiting time for veterans seeking an appointment with a physician exceeds the VA's waiting time goals, or (2) the VA medical facility where the physician will be employed has demonstrated staffing shortages.

Requires each VA medical facility to have a volunteer coordinator who: (1) seeks to establish relationships with medical associations serving the area, (2) recruits physicians for uncompensated employment at the facility, and (3) serves as the initial point of contact for physicians seeking uncompensated employment at the facility.

Conditions an uncompensated physician's receipt of a credential or privilege to practice medicine in a VA facility on the physician's commitment to serve at least 40 hours in the facility during the ensuing one-year period.

Requires the VA to decide whether to grant an uncompensated physician's request for a credential or privilege to practice medicine in the VA facility within 60 days.

Requires the director of a VA medical facility to approve, and accept the uncompensated services of, any physician who has made the requisite service commitment and receives a credential or privilege to practice medicine in such facility.

Requires the VA to submit annual reports on physicians employed on a without compensation basis. Prohibits any physician employed on such basis from being considered in determining whether there is a staffing shortage throughout the VA with respect to a particular occupation.

## **Actions Timeline**

---

- **May 26, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Apr 30, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 30, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.