

HR 1367

To improve the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to hire and retain physicians and other employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Mar 6, 2017

Current Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (Mar 21, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1367>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Wenstrup, Brad R. [R-OH-2]

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

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Dunn, Neal P. [R-FL-2]	R · FL		Mar 9, 2017
Rep. Sessions, Pete [R-TX-32]	R · TX		Mar 9, 2017
Rep. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ-9]	D · AZ		Mar 9, 2017
Resident Commissioner González-Colón, Jenniffer [R-PR-At Large]	R · PR		Mar 9, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Discharged From	Mar 10, 2017
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Reported By	Mar 10, 2017
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 21, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 S 1550	Related bill	Jul 13, 2017: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
115 HRES 198	Related bill	Mar 16, 2017: Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

(Sec. 2) This bill provides that the annual determination of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) staff shortages shall include shortages for a minimum of five clinical and five non-clinical occupations for each network. (Such determination currently includes the five occupations for which there are the largest Department of Veterans Affairs [VA]-wide shortages.)

(Sec. 3) The bill establishes in the VA an executive management fellowship program to provide eligible employees of: (1) the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and the VHA with private sector training and experience, and (2) a private-sector entity with VA training and experience.

The VA shall: (1) annually select between 18 and 30 eligible VHA and VBA employees and between 18 and 30 eligible private sector employees for such one-year fellowships, and (2) select such employees in a manner that reflects U.S. veteran demographics and that provides a preference for employees who represent or service rural areas.

(Sec. 4) The VA shall conduct an annual performance plan for each political appointee that is similar to the plan conducted for VA career senior executive employees.

Each plan shall assess whether an appointee is meeting specified goals, including: (1) recruiting and retaining well-qualified individuals, and (2) motivating and developing employees for future VA leadership roles.

(Sec. 5) Veterans federal employment preference provisions are amended to: (1) make all retired members of the armed forces preference eligible, and (2) provide preference eligible individuals with a senior executive position hiring preference.

(Sec. 6) The VA may noncompetitively appoint a qualified former employee to any VA position within the competitive service that is one grade or equivalent higher than the position most recently occupied by the employee.

(Sec. 7) The VA shall establish a single database that lists each vacant VA position that is: (1) critical, difficult to fill, or both; or (2) for a mental health professional.

(Sec. 8) The VA shall provide VHA human resources professionals with employee recruitment and retention training as soon as practicable after being hired and annually thereafter.

(Sec. 9) The VA shall establish a promotional track system for employees who are technical experts to advance without being required to transition to management positions.

(Sec. 10) The Government Accountability Office shall conduct a study of succession planning at: (1) each VA medical facility, including each medical center, domiciliary facility, outpatient clinic, community-based outpatient clinic, and vet center; and (2) the VBA and the VA National Cemetery Administration.

(Sec. 11) The VA shall prescribe regulations to allow for excepted service appointments of qualifying students and recent graduates leading to career or career conditional employment. Such conversion authority shall apply to individuals who: (1) are employed in a qualifying VA internship or fellowship program, (2) are employed in the VA in a volunteer capacity or under a contract or agreement with an external nonprofit organization and are performing duties comparable to individuals in internship or fellowship programs, (3) have received Post-9/11 educational assistance, or (4) are under 30 years old and graduated from a qualifying educational institution.

(Sec. 12) The VA shall develop, in consultation with an appropriate non-VA entity, and carry out a standardized exit survey for career and noncareer VA employees and executives who voluntarily separate from the VA. Survey results shall be shared annually with directors and managers of VA and VISN facilities.

(Sec. 13) The VA shall establish a program to encourage an individual who serves in the Armed Forces with a military health care specialty to seek post-military employment with the VHA.

(14) The VA shall: (1) develop a plan to hire qualified directors for each VA medical center that lacks a permanent director, and (2) prioritize such hiring for medical centers that have not had a permanent director for the longest periods.

(Sec. 15) The VA shall ensure that a VISN recruiter visits at least annually each allopathic and osteopathic teaching institution with a graduate medical education program within the network to recruit individuals for the VHA.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 21, 2017:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
- **Mar 17, 2017:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H2155-1268)
- **Mar 17, 2017:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 198, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Wenstrup amendment No. 1.
- **Mar 17, 2017:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 198, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Meng amendment No. 2.
- **Mar 17, 2017:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 198, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Sewell amendment No. 3.
- **Mar 17, 2017:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 198, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Hanabusa amendment No. 4.
- **Mar 17, 2017:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 198, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Buck amendment No. 5.
- **Mar 17, 2017:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 198, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Shea-Porter amendment No. 6.
- **Mar 17, 2017:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 198, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Brownley (CA) amendment No. 7.
- **Mar 17, 2017:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 198, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Welch amendment No. 8.
- **Mar 17, 2017:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 198, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Gottheimer amendment No. 9.
- **Mar 17, 2017:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 198, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Herrera Beutler amendment No. 10.
- **Mar 17, 2017:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 198, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Hanabusa amendment No. 11.
- **Mar 17, 2017:** POSTPONED PROCEEDINGS - At the conclusion of debate on the Hanabusa amendment No. 11, the Chair put the question on adoption of the amendment and by voice vote announced that the ayes had prevailed. Mr. Walz demanded a recorded vote and the Chair postponed further proceedings on the question of adoption of the amendment until a time to be announced.
- **Mar 17, 2017:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 198, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Meng amendment No. 12.
- **Mar 17, 2017:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 198, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Bost amendment No. 13.
- **Mar 17, 2017:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 198, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the O'Rourke amendment No. 14.
- **Mar 17, 2017:** Mr. Wenstrup moved that the committee rise.
- **Mar 17, 2017:** On motion that the committee rise Agreed to by voice vote.
- **Mar 17, 2017:** Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union rises leaving H.R. 1367 as unfinished business.
- **Mar 17, 2017:** Considered as unfinished business.
- **Mar 17, 2017:** The House resolved into Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for further consideration.
- **Mar 17, 2017:** UNFINISHED BUSINESS - The Chair announced that the unfinished business was on adoption of the Hanabusa amendment No. 11, which was debated earlier and on which further proceedings had been postponed.
- **Mar 17, 2017:** The House rose from the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union to report H.R. 1367.
- **Mar 17, 2017:** The previous question was ordered pursuant to the rule.
- **Mar 17, 2017:** The House adopted the amendment in the nature of a substitute as agreed to by the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union. (text: CR H2156-2158)
- **Mar 17, 2017:** Passed/agreed to in House: On passage Passed by the Yeas and Nays: 412 - 0 (Roll no. 171).
- **Mar 17, 2017:** On passage Passed by the Yeas and Nays: 412 - 0 (Roll no. 171).
- **Mar 17, 2017:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Mar 16, 2017:** Considered under the provisions of rule H. Res. 198. (consideration: CR H2136-2139)
- **Mar 16, 2017:** House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union pursuant to H. Res. 198 and Rule XVIII.

- Mar 16, 2017:** The Speaker designated the Honorable Ted Budd to act as Chairman of the Committee.
- **Mar 16, 2017:** GENERAL DEBATE - The Committee of the Whole proceeded with one hour of general debate on H.R. 1367.
 - **Mar 16, 2017:** Mr. Wenstrup moved that the committee rise.
 - **Mar 16, 2017:** On motion to rise Agreed to by voice vote.
 - **Mar 16, 2017:** Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union rises leaving H.R. 1367 as unfinished business.
 - **Mar 10, 2017:** Reported by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H. Rept. 115-35, Part I.
 - **Mar 10, 2017:** Committee on Oversight and Government discharged.
 - **Mar 10, 2017:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 17.
 - **Mar 6, 2017:** Introduced in House
 - **Mar 6, 2017:** 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.

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