

S 1550

Department of Veterans Affairs Quality Employment Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jul 13, 2017

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (Jul 13, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1550>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Strange, Luther [R-AL]

Party: Republican • **State:** AL • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cotton, Tom [R-AR]	R · AR		Jul 13, 2017
Sen. Inhofe, James M. [R-OK]	R · OK		Jul 13, 2017
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		Jul 13, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 13, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 S 114	Related bill	Aug 12, 2017: Became Public Law No: 115-46.
115 HR 1367	Related bill	Mar 21, 2017: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Department of Veterans Affairs Quality Employment Act of 2017

This bill provides that the annual determination of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) staff shortages shall include shortages for 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.)

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:

- conduct an annual performance plan for each political appointee that is similar to the plan conducted for VA career senior executive employees;
- establish a single database that lists each vacant VA position that is critical, difficult to fill, or both, and each vacant mental health position;
- prescribe regulations to allow for excepted service appointments of qualifying students and recent graduates;
- provide VHA human resources with training on employee recruitment and retention;
- establish a promotional track system for employees who are technical experts to advance without being required to transition to management positions;
- develop a program to transition military medical people into VHA employment;
- develop a plan to hire qualified directors for each medical center without a permanent director;
- develop a standardized VA exit survey; and
- ensure that a recruiter for each Veterans Integrated Service Network visits, at least annually, each allopathic and osteopathic teaching institution with a graduate medical education program within the network to recruit individuals to be appointed to VHA positions.

The VA may non-competitively appoint a qualified former career or career conditional employee to any VA position within the competitive service that is one grade higher than the position most recently occupied by the employee.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 13, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
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