

## 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**

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- **Jul 13, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 13, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.