

HR 3557

To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the number of health care professionals employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs by improving the Department of Veterans Affairs Education Debt Reduction Program.

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jul 28, 2017

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Jul 28, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/3557>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Walden, Greg [R-OR-2]

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

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]	D · OR		Jul 28, 2017
Rep. Newhouse, Dan [R-WA-4]	R · WA		Jul 28, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 28, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

This bill makes a Veterans Health Administration employee who provides patient care services in a position for which recruitment or retention of qualified personnel is difficult eligible for undergraduate and graduate education loan reduction under the Education Debt Reduction Program. (Currently, such loan reduction is available only for a course or training leading to a degree that qualifies the individual for a patient care services position.)

The bill increases the five-year amount of education debt reduction payments made to or for a program participant from \$120,000 to \$240,000, of which not more than \$60,000 (currently, \$24,000) may be made in each year.

The VA shall select program locations pursuant to a process that is similar to the process used to determine public health professional shortage areas.

For purposes of providing tax liability reimbursements resulting from payments on behalf of an individual, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA): (1) shall, in addition to such payments, make payments in an amount equal to 39% of the total amount of loan repayments made for the taxable year; and (2) may make such additional payments as the VA determines appropriate.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 28, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 28, 2017:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
- **Jul 28, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.