

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1131

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and implement a plan to hire directors of the medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 16, 2017

Mr. BOST (for himself, Mr. COSTA, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. SHUSTER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mrs. HARTZLER, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. BERGMAN, Ms. GABBARD, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. LOWENTHAL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and implement a plan to hire directors of the medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “VA Health Center  
5 Management Stability and Improvement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) According to data from the Department of  
2 Veterans Affairs, several medical centers of the De-  
3 partment are managed by acting or temporary direc-  
4 tors.

5           (2) Some of these medical centers have not  
6 been managed by a permanent director for a long  
7 period.

8           (3) Pursuant to section 317.903 of title 5, Code  
9 of Federal Regulations, a member of the senior exec-  
10 utive service who is detailed to a temporary position  
11 in a department or agency of the Federal Govern-  
12 ment may not serve in that position for periods  
13 longer than 120-day increments, and no member of  
14 the senior executive service may be detailed to an  
15 unclassified position for a period longer than 240  
16 days.

17           (4) The inability of the Department of Veterans  
18 Affairs to recruit qualified, permanent candidates as  
19 directors of medical centers, combined with the poli-  
20 cies described in paragraph (3), leads to frequent  
21 turnover of directors at the medical centers which  
22 impedes the ability of system management to engage  
23 in long-term planning and other functions necessary  
24 to improve service delivery to veterans.

1           (5) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs should  
2           develop a comprehensive plan to recruit permanent  
3           directors at each medical center that lacks a perma-  
4           nent director.

5   **SEC. 3. PLAN TO HIRE DIRECTORS OF MEDICAL CENTERS**  
6                           **OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

7           (a) PLAN.—Not later than 120 days after the date  
8           of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans  
9           Affairs shall develop and implement a plan to hire highly  
10          qualified directors for each medical center of the Depart-  
11          ment of Veterans Affairs that lacks a permanent director  
12          as of the date of the plan. The Secretary shall prioritize  
13          the hiring of such directors for the medical centers that  
14          have not had a permanent director for the longest periods.

15          (b) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The plan developed under  
16          subsection (a) shall include the following:

17               (1) A deadline to hire the directors of the med-  
18               ical centers of the Department as described in such  
19               subsection.

20               (2) Identification of the possible impediments to  
21               such hiring.

22               (3) Identification of opportunities to promote  
23               and train candidates from within the Department to  
24               senior executive positions in the Department, includ-  
25               ing as directors of medical centers.

1           (c) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 120 days after the  
2 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall sub-  
3 mit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House  
4 of Representatives and the Senate the plan developed  
5 under subsection (a).

6           (d) SEMIANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 180  
7 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and each  
8 180-day period thereafter until January 1, 2018, the Sec-  
9 retary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs  
10 of the House of Representatives and the Senate a list of  
11 each medical center of the Department that lacks a per-  
12 manent director as of the date of the report.

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