

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1505

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the maximum market pay of physicians and dentists in the Veterans Health Administration who work in health professional shortage areas, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 2017

Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself and Mr. ABRAHAM) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the maximum market pay of physicians and dentists in the Veterans Health Administration who work in health professional shortage areas, and for other purposes.

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 Provider Pay Mod-
5 ernization Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. MARKET PAY FOR PHYSICIANS AND DENTISTS IN**
2 **THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION IN**
3 **HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS.**

4 Section 7431(c) of title 38, United States Code, is
5 amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (3)—

7 (A) by striking “The” and inserting “Sub-
8 ject to paragraph (5), the”; and

9 (B) by striking “determined by the Sec-
10 retary on a case-by-case basis” and inserting
11 “the same for each physician or dentist with
12 the same specialty or assignment in the same
13 Veterans Integrated Service Network”;

14 (2) in paragraph (5)—

15 (A) by striking “The” and inserting “Sub-
16 ject to subparagraph (C), the”;

17 (B) by striking “shall take” and inserting
18 “may exceed the market pay generally available
19 under paragraph (3) to a physician or dentist
20 with the same specialty or assignment in the
21 same Veterans Integrated Service Network by
22 an amount not to exceed five percent of the
23 total pay of such physician or dentist, taking”;
24 and

25 (C) in subparagraph (C)—

1 (i) by inserting “(i)” before “the
2 health care labor market”;

3 (ii) by striking all that follows “den-
4 tist” and inserting “in the relevant health
5 service area, as designated by the Sec-
6 retary of Health and Human Services
7 under section 5.2 of title 42, Code of Fed-
8 eral Regulations (42 C.F.R. 5.2); and”;
9 and

10 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
11 lowing new clause:

12 “(ii) whether the Secretary of Health and
13 Human Services has designated under section
14 332 of the Public Health Service Act (42
15 U.S.C. 254e) such health service area as a
16 health professional shortage area with regards
17 to the specialty of the physician or dentist, in
18 which case market pay for the physician or den-
19 tist may exceed, by not more than 25 percent,
20 the market pay for a physician or dentist in
21 such health service area with a specialty or as-
22 signment not relevant to the health professional
23 shortage area;” and

24 (3) in paragraph (6), by striking “24” and in-
25 serting “12”.

1 **SEC. 3. BASIC PAY PARITY.**

2 Section 7403(h)(6) of title 38, United States Code,
3 is amended—

4 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
5 graph (A);

6 (2) by striking the period at the end of sub-
7 paragraph (B) and inserting “; and”; and

8 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
9 paragraph:

10 “(C) create parity to the greatest extent practicable
11 between the grades and annual rates of basic pay for em-
12 ployees of the Administration who perform similar duties
13 in the same facility, regardless of time of service.”.

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