

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 55

To limit the detailing of directors of medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs to different positions within the Department, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 24 (legislative day, JANUARY 3), 2023

Mr. BOOZMAN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To limit the detailing of directors of medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs to different positions within the Department, 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 medical Center  
5 Absence and Notification Timeline Act” or the “VACANT  
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON DETAIL OF DIRECTORS OF MED-**  
2 **ICAL CENTERS OF DEPARTMENT OF VET-**  
3 **ERANS AFFAIRS TO DIFFERENT POSITIONS.**

4 (a) NOTIFICATION.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
6 detailing a director of a medical center of the De-  
7 partment of Veterans Affairs to a different position  
8 within the Department, the Secretary of Veterans  
9 Affairs shall notify the Committee on Veterans' Af-  
10 fairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans'  
11 Affairs of the House of Representatives of such de-  
12 tail.

13 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The notifica-  
14 tion required by paragraph (1) shall include, with re-  
15 spect to a director of a medical center who is de-  
16 tailed to a different position within the Department,  
17 the following information:

18 (A) The location at which the director is  
19 detailed.

20 (B) The position title of the detail.

21 (C) The estimated time the director is ex-  
22 pected to be absent from their duties at the  
23 medical center.

24 (D) Such other information as the Sec-  
25 retary may determine appropriate.

1 (b) APPOINTMENT OF ACTING DIRECTOR.—Not later  
2 than 120 days after detailing a director of a medical cen-  
3 ter of the Department to a different position within the  
4 Department, the Secretary shall appoint an individual as  
5 acting director of such medical center with all of the au-  
6 thority and responsibilities of the detailed director.

7 (c) UPDATE ON DETAIL.—Not later than 120 days  
8 after detailing a director of a medical center of the De-  
9 partment to a different position within the Department,  
10 and not less frequently than every 30 days thereafter while  
11 the detail is in effect or while the director position at the  
12 medical center is vacant, the Secretary shall submit to the  
13 Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the  
14 Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Rep-  
15 resentatives an update regarding the status of the detail.

16 (d) RETURN TO POSITION OR REASSIGNMENT.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
18 graph (2), not later than 180 days after detailing a  
19 director of a medical center of the Department to a  
20 different position within the Department, for a rea-  
21 son other than an ongoing investigation or adminis-  
22 trative action with respect to the director, the Sec-  
23 retary shall—

24 (A) return the individual to the position as  
25 director of the medical center; or

1           (B) reassign the individual from the posi-  
2           tion as director of the medical center and begin  
3           the process of hiring a new director for such po-  
4           sition.

5           (2) WAIVER.—

6           (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may  
7           waive the requirement under paragraph (1)  
8           with respect to an individual for successive 90-  
9           day increments for a total period of not more  
10          than 540 days from the original date the indi-  
11          vidual was detailed away from their position as  
12          director of a medical center.

13          (B) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 30  
14          days after exercising a waiver under subpara-  
15          graph (A), the Secretary shall notify Congress  
16          of the waiver and provide to Congress informa-  
17          tion as to why the waiver is necessary.

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