



H.R. 2790 – To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the position of Director of Physician Assistant Services within the office of the Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 2790 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Phil Hare (D-IL) on June 20, 2007. The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by voice vote on April 30, 2008.

H.R. 2790 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on May 20, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 2790 establishes the position of Director of Physician Assistant Services within the office of the Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health. The VA is to ensure that the Director is serving in the position no later than 120 days after the enactment of this legislation.

The Director is to report to the Under Secretary for Health on all matters relating to the education and training, employment, appropriate utilization, and optimal participation of physician assistants within the VA Health Administration.

BACKGROUND

Under current law, the VA has an Advisor on Physician Assistants who works part time. Physicians Assistants who work for the VA are required to be certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. Physician Assistants practice medicine under the supervision of a physician.

The current VA position of Advisor on Physician Assistants was established by the Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-419). Since then, the number of physician assistant positions within the VA has increased 34 percent to almost 1,600 serving today.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that "implementing the bill would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2009-2013 period."

[Full CBO cost estimate for H.R. 2790](#)

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