

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5620, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. KEATING OF MASSACHUSETTS**

Add at the end the following new section:

1 **SEC. 11. CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT FOR EM-**
2 **PLOYEES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
3 **FAIRS AUTHORIZED TO PRESCRIBE MEDICA-**
4 **TION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 74 of title
6 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
7 the following new section:

8 **“§ 7413. Continuing education requirement for em-**
9 **ployees authorized to prescribe medica-**
10 **tion**

11 “(a) REQUIREMENT.—(1) Except as provided in
12 paragraph (2), the Secretary shall require each covered
13 employee of the Department to complete not less than one
14 accredited course of continuing education on pain manage-
15 ment once every two years. Such course shall include in-
16 formation on safe prescribing practices and disposal of
17 controlled substances, principles of pain management,
18 identification of potential substance use disorders and ad-
19 diction treatment.

1 “(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a covered em-
2 ployee if the covered employee is licensed or certified by
3 a State licensure or specialty board that requires the com-
4 pletion of continuing education relative to pain manage-
5 ment or substance use disorder management.

6 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) The term ‘covered employee’ means any
8 employee of the Department authorized to prescribe
9 any controlled substance, including an employee
10 hired under section 7405 of this title.

11 “(2) The term ‘controlled substance’ has the
12 meaning given such term in section 102 of the Con-
13 trolled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802).

14 “(c) APPLICABILITY.—The requirement under sub-
15 section (a) shall apply with respect to a covered employee
16 for any 24-month period during which the covered em-
17 ployee is employed by the Department for at least 180
18 days.”.

19 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
20 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
21 at the end of the items relating to subchapter I of such
22 chapter the following new item:

 “7413. Continuing education requirement for employees authorized to prescribe
 medication.”.

23 (c) APPLICABILITY.—Section 7413 of title 38, United
24 States Code, as added by subsection (a) shall apply with

- 1 respect to a 12-month period that begins on or after the
- 2 date of the enactment of this Act.

