

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT**

**119–33**

**OFFERED BY MR. HAMADEH OF ARIZONA**

At the end of subtitle A of title XVII, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 17\_\_\_.** **VA MEDICAL CENTER FACILITY TRANS-**  
2 **PARENCY.**

3 (a) **REQUIREMENT FOR TIMELY SCHEDULING OF AP-**  
4 **POINTMENTS AT MEDICAL FACILITIES OF DEPARTMENT**  
5 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—**

6 (1) **REQUIREMENT.—**Chapter 17 of title 38,  
7 United States Code, is amended—

8 (A) by redesignating section 1706A as sec-  
9 tion 1706B; and

10 (B) by inserting after section 1706 the fol-  
11 lowing new section:

12 **“§ 1706A. Management of health care: timely sched-**  
13 **uling of appointments at Department fa-**  
14 **cilities**

15 **“(a) REQUIREMENT FOR SCHEDULING.—**In man-  
16 aging the provision of hospital care and medical services  
17 at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs  
18 under this chapter, the Secretary shall ensure that when-

1 ever a covered veteran contacts the Department by tele-  
2 phone to request the scheduling of an appointment for  
3 care or services for the covered veteran at such a facility,  
4 the scheduling for the appointment occurs during that  
5 telephone call (regardless of the prospective date of the  
6 appointment being scheduled).

7 “(b) COVERED VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section,  
8 the term ‘covered veteran’ means a veteran who is enrolled  
9 in the system of patient enrollment of the Department  
10 under section 1705(a) of this title.

11 “(c) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate on the  
12 date that is three years after the date of the enactment  
13 of the VA Medical Center Facility Transparency Act.”.

14 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
15 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended  
16 by striking the item relating to section 1706A and  
17 inserting the following new items:

“1706A. Management of health care: timely scheduling of appointments at De-  
partment facilities.

“1706B. Remediation of medical service lines.”.

18 (3) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made  
19 by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to requests  
20 for appointment scheduling occurring on or after the  
21 date that is 180 days after the date of the enact-  
22 ment of this Act.

23 (b) INFORMATION ON MEDICAL FACILITIES OF THE  
24 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—

1           (1) FACT SHEETS.—The Secretary of Veterans  
2           Affairs shall ensure that each director of a medical  
3           center of the Department of Veterans Affairs sub-  
4           mits to the Secretary, the Committees on Veterans'  
5           Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Sen-  
6           ate, and the appropriate Members of Congress the  
7           following:

8                   (A) An annual concise, easy-to-read fact  
9                   sheet containing, with respect to the year cov-  
10                  ered by the fact sheet each of the following:

11                           (i) Statistics regarding—

12                                   (I) the number of veterans who  
13                                   were treated at a medical facility of  
14                                   the Department under the jurisdiction  
15                                   of the director;

16                                   (II) the number of appointments  
17                                   conducted by each such facility;

18                                   (III) the most common illnesses  
19                                   or conditions for which treatment was  
20                                   furnished;

21                                   (IV) the satisfaction of veterans  
22                                   who were treated at each such facility;

23                                   (V) how each such facility com-  
24                                   pares with other facilities with respect

1 to the satisfaction of veterans who  
2 were treated at the facilities; and

3 (VI) other matters the director  
4 determines appropriate.

5 (ii) A description of any successes or  
6 achievements experienced by such facilities,  
7 including—

8 (I) actions taken to improve such  
9 facilities;

10 (II) actions taken to improve the  
11 access to and quality of the care pro-  
12 vided at such facilities; and

13 (III) any other accomplishments  
14 determined appropriate by the direc-  
15 tor.

16 (iii) A description of special areas of  
17 emphasis or specialization by such facili-  
18 ties, such as efforts aimed at meeting the  
19 needs of women veterans, suicide preven-  
20 tion and other mental health initiatives,  
21 opioid abuse prevention and pain manage-  
22 ment, or special efforts on veteran home-  
23 lessness, or other matters as the director  
24 determines appropriate.

1 (iv) A description of matters con-  
2 cerning such facilities that have previously  
3 been identified as deficient and needing re-  
4 mediation that are still in need of such re-  
5 mediation.

6 (B) A quarterly fact sheet containing, with  
7 respect to the quarter covered by the fact sheet,  
8 the average wait time for veterans to receive  
9 treatment at the medical facility of the Depart-  
10 ment under the jurisdiction of the director.

11 (2) AVAILABILITY.—Each fact sheet under  
12 paragraph (1) shall be made publicly available—

13 (A) in a physical form at the relevant med-  
14 ical facility of the Department in a conspicuous  
15 location; and

16 (B) in an electronic form on the internet  
17 website of the facility.

18 (3) TIMING OF FACT SHEETS.—The fact sheets  
19 under paragraph (1) shall be submitted during the  
20 first fiscal year beginning after the date that is 180  
21 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and  
22 not less frequently than—

23 (A) once each fiscal year thereafter with  
24 respect to the annual fact sheet under subpara-  
25 graph (A) of such paragraph; and

1 (B) once each fiscal quarter thereafter  
2 with respect to the quarterly fact sheet under  
3 subparagraph (B) of such paragraph.

4 (4) STANDARDIZED FORMAT.—The Secretary  
5 shall establish a standard format for the fact sheets  
6 under paragraph (1) to ensure that each director of  
7 a medical center of the Department carries out such  
8 paragraph in a consistent manner.

9 (5) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

10 (A) The term “appropriate Members of  
11 Congress” means, with respect to a medical fa-  
12 cility of the Department of Veterans Affairs  
13 about which a fact sheet is submitted under  
14 paragraph (1), the Senators representing the  
15 State, and the Member, Delegate, or Resident  
16 Commissioner of the House of Representatives  
17 representing the district, that includes the facil-  
18 ity.

19 (B) The term “State” means each of the  
20 several States, the District of Columbia, the  
21 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any terri-  
22 tory or possession of the United States.

23 (c) LIMITATION ON DETAIL OF DIRECTORS OF MED-  
24 ICAL CENTERS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
25 TO DIFFERENT POSITIONS.—

1 (1) NOTIFICATION.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days  
3 after detailing a director of a medical center of  
4 the Department of Veterans Affairs to a dif-  
5 ferent position within the Department, the Sec-  
6 retary of Veterans Affairs shall notify the Com-  
7 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and  
8 the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the  
9 House of Representatives of such detail.

10 (B) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The no-  
11 tification required by subparagraph (A) shall  
12 include, with respect to a director of a medical  
13 center who is detailed to a different position  
14 within the Department, the following informa-  
15 tion:

16 (i) The location at which the director  
17 is detailed.

18 (ii) The position title of the detail.

19 (iii) The estimated time the director is  
20 expected to be absent from their duties at  
21 the medical center.

22 (iv) Such other information as the  
23 Secretary may determine appropriate.

24 (2) APPOINTMENT OF ACTING DIRECTOR.—Not  
25 later than 120 days after detailing a director of a

1 medical center of the Department to a different posi-  
2 tion within the Department, the Secretary shall ap-  
3 point an individual as acting director of such med-  
4 ical center with all of the authority and responsibil-  
5 ities of the detailed director.

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

16 (4) RETURN TO POSITION OR REASSIGN-  
17 MENT.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
19 subparagraph (B), not later than 180 days  
20 after detailing a director of a medical center of  
21 the Department to a different position within  
22 the Department, for a reason other than an on-  
23 going investigation or administrative action  
24 with respect to the director, the Secretary  
25 shall—

1 (i) return the individual to the posi-  
2 tion as director of the medical center; or

3 (ii) reassign the individual from the  
4 position as director of the medical center  
5 and begin the process of hiring a new di-  
6 rector for such position.

7 (B) WAIVER.—

8 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may  
9 waive the requirement under subparagraph  
10 (A) with respect to an individual for suc-  
11 cessive 90-day increments for a total pe-  
12 riod of not more than 540 days from the  
13 original date the individual was detailed  
14 away from their position as director of a  
15 medical center.

16 (ii) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than  
17 30 days after exercising a waiver under  
18 clause (i), the Secretary shall notify Con-  
19 gress of the waiver and provide to Con-  
20 gress information as to why the waiver is  
21 necessary.

22 (d) SUNSET.—The requirements of this Act shall ter-  
23minate on the date that is three years after the date of  
24 the enactment of this Act.

