

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 115-6
OFFERED BY MR. KEATING OF MASSACHUSETTS

Add at the end the following:

1 **SEC. 14. CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT FOR EM-**
2 **PLOYES 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) PENALTY.—A covered employee who fails to
7 comply with the requirement under subsection (a) shall
8 be subject to—

9 “(1) suspension of authority to prescribe any
10 controlled substance until the covered employee com-
11 plies with the requirement under subsection (a); and

12 “(2) any discipline the Secretary determines is
13 appropriate.

14 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 “(1) The term ‘covered employee’ means any
16 employee of the Department authorized to prescribe
17 any controlled substance, including an employee
18 hired under section 7405 of this title.

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

22 “(d) APPLICABILITY.—The requirement under sub-
23 section (a) shall apply with respect to a covered employee
24 for any 24-month period during which the covered em-

1 ployee is employed by the Department for at least 180
2 days.”.

3 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
4 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
5 at the end of the items relating to subchapter I of such
6 chapter the following new item:

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

7 (c) APPLICABILITY.—Section 7413 of title 38, United
8 States Code, as added by subsection (a) shall apply with
9 respect to a 12-month period that begins on or after the
10 date of the enactment of this Act.

