

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119-

33

**OFFERED BY MS. KING-HINDS OF NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

At the end of subtitle B of title XVII, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 17___ . DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ASSIGN-**
2 **MENT OF TRAVELING PHYSICIANS TO SERVE**
3 **TERRITORIES AND POSSESSIONS.**

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

7 **“§ 7415. Traveling physicians**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) The Secretary may assign a
9 physician appointed under section 7401 or section 7431
10 of this title to serve as a traveling physician for a period
11 of not more than one year at a time. A physician assigned
12 to serve as a traveling physician under this section may
13 be assigned to provide health care to veterans residing in
14 American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the North-
15 ern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,
16 the Virgin Islands of the United States, or any other terri-
17 tory or possession of the United States at Department fa-

1 cilities or other approved facilities located in such territory
2 or possession.

3 “(2) The Secretary may assign multiple physicians
4 to serve as traveling physicians under this section and may
5 assign each such physician to serve in a specific territory
6 or possession.

7 “(b) COORDINATION OF CARE.—In providing care
8 under this section, traveling physicians shall coordinate
9 with non-Department medical providers to the extent
10 practicable and necessary to ensure high quality and co-
11 ordinated care for veterans receiving hospital care and
12 medical services.

13 “(c) PAY.—In addition to pay under section 7431 of
14 this title, the Secretary shall provide a relocation or reten-
15 tion bonus to traveling physicians under this section. Such
16 relocation or retention bonus shall be substantially similar
17 to a relocation or retention bonus offered under section
18 7410(a) of this title, as the Secretary considers appro-
19 priate.”.

20 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
21 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
22 after the item relating to section 7414 the following new
23 item:

“7415. Traveling physicians.”.

1 (c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—
2 Title 38, United States Code, is further amended as fol-
3 lows:

4 (1) In section 7410(a)(1), by—

5 (A) by striking “retention allowances” and
6 inserting “retention bonuses”; and

7 (B) by striking the second comma after
8 “section 7401(1) of this title”; and

9 (2) In section 7431(e)(5)(B), by striking “re-
10 tention allowances” and inserting “retention bo-
11 nuses”.

12 (d) EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS
13 OF PENSION.—Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United
14 States Code, is amended by striking “November 30, 2031”
15 and inserting “December 31, 2032”.

