

PROVIDING FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5109, THE  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE  
PERSONNEL ACT OF 2000

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SEPTEMBER 20, 2000.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

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Mr. DIAZ-BALART, from the Committee on Rules,  
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. Res. 585]

The Committee on Rules, having had under consideration House Resolution 585, by a nonrecord vote, report the same to the House with the recommendation that the resolution be adopted.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS OF THE RESOLUTION

The resolution provides for the consideration of H.R. 5109, the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Personnel Act of 2000, under a modified closed rule. The rule provides one hour of debate in the House divided equally between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

The rule provides that the amendment recommended by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The rule further waives all points of order against the bill, as amended, and against its consideration. The rule makes in order the amendment printed in this report which shall be considered as read and shall not be subject to amendment. The rule also waives all points of order against the amendment printed in this report.

Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

TEXT OF AMENDMENT MADE IN ORDER UNDER THE RULE

AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE STUMP OF ARIZONA, OR REPRESENTATIVE EVANS OF ILLINOIS, OR A DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 10 MINUTES

At the end of title I, insert the following new section (and conform the table of contents in section 1(b) accordingly):

**SEC. 108. CHIROPRACTORS AND CHIROPRACTIC CARE.**

(a) EMPLOYMENT CATEGORY.—(1) Section 7401(1) is amended by inserting “chiropractors,” after “optometrist,”.

(2) Section 7402(b)(10) is amended by inserting “chiropractor,” after “physician assistant,”.

(3) Section 7403(a)(2) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(H) Chiropractors.”.

(4) Section 7421(b) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(8) Chiropractors.”.

(b) CHIROPRACTIC HEALTH CARE PLAN.—(1) Not later than March 31, 2001, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall complete development of a plan to improve the provision of chiropractic health care services and benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) The plan shall (in a manner consistent with the Veterans Health Administration policy on chiropractic services as in effect on May 4, 2000) provide for the following:

(A) Improving the provision of chiropractic services by the Veterans Health Administration.

(B) Assessing the cost and clinical policy implications of providing direct access to the full scope of chiropractic services, as determined by the Secretary, including at a minimum, care for neuromusculoskeletal conditions typical among veterans.

(C) A detailed analysis of the projected costs of fully integrating chiropractic health care services into the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system.

(D) A review of the adequacy of any proposed treatment facility at which chiropractic services would be provided to veterans.

(E) An examination of any other relevant factors that the Secretary considers appropriate, particularly those associated with the effect of providing the full scope of chiropractic services on the so-called “primary care” model of the delivery of care and services to enrolled veterans as practiced within the Veterans Health Administration.

(F) Such other matters as the Secretary considers important in the consideration of the introduction of chiropractic services in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(3) Not later than June 30, 2001, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit a report on the plan required under paragraph (1) to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives. The report shall address each of the matters specified in paragraph (2).

(c) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall consult with the advisory committee established under section 7323 of title 38, United States Code, regarding the following:

(1) The development and implementation of the plan required under subsection (b).

(2) Each report that the Secretary is required to submit to Congress regarding the plan.

(3) The selection of the Department treatment facilities at which the chiropractic services described in subsection (b)(2)(A) are to be provided.

(d) CONTINUATION OF CURRENT SERVICES.—Until the plan required under subsection (b) is implemented, the Secretary shall continue to furnish at least the same level of chiropractic health care services and benefits under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, that is provided during fiscal year 2000 at medical treatment facilities that provide such services and benefits.

(e) GAO REPORTS.—The Comptroller General shall monitor the development and implementation of the plan required under subsection (b), including the administration of services and benefits under the plan, and shall periodically submit to the committees referred to in subsection (b)(3) written reports on such development and implementation.

(f) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—(1) Subchapter II of chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“§ 7323. Advisory Committee on Complementary and Alternative Medicine and Chiropractic Care**

“(a) The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Health, shall establish in the Veterans Health Administration an Advisory Committee on Complementary and Alternative Medicine and Chiropractic Care.

“(b) Members of the committee shall be appointed from persons representing the major providers of, and disciplines in, complementary and alternative medicine and chiropractic care, including the following:

- “(1) Acupuncture.
- “(2) Nutritional intervention.
- “(3) Botanical therapy.
- “(4) Mind/body medicine.
- “(5) Physical and manual therapy.
- “(6) Pharmacological and biological agents.
- “(7) Chiropractic therapy.
- “(8) Such others as may be identified by the National Institutes of Health.

“(c) The committee shall meet at intervals as determined by the Secretary and shall provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary and Under Secretary on the establishment of programs and policies associated with the delivery of complementary and alternative medicine and chiropractic services, including the following:

- “(1) Guidance and recommendations to the Secretary and Under Secretary on the need to establish programs of care for those disciplines.
- “(2) Evaluations.
- “(3) Research and development.
- “(4) Academic affiliations and other relationships and activities related to alternative health services.

“(d) The committee shall—

- “(1) advise the Under Secretary regarding complementary and alternative medicine and chiropractic care; and

“(2) make recommendations to the Under Secretary—

- “(A) for improving programs of such care at specific facilities and throughout the Veterans Health Administration;

“(B) for establishing special programs of education and training relevant to such care for employees of the Veterans Health Administration;

“(C) regarding research needs and priorities relevant to such care; and

“(D) regarding the appropriate allocation of resources for all such activities.

“(e)(1) Not later than April 1, 2001, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the implementation of this section. The report shall include the following:

“(A) A list of the members of the committee.

“(B) The findings and recommendations made by the committee to the Under Secretary for Health and the views of the Under Secretary on such findings and recommendations.

“(2) Not later than February 1, 2002, and February 1 of each of the three following years, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report containing information updating the reports submitted under this subsection before the submission of such report.”.

(2) The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 7322 the following new item:

“7323. Advisory Committee on Complementary and Alternative Medicine and Chiropractic Care.”.