[~114S297]

		(Original Signature of Member)
114TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION	H.R.	

To revive and expand the Intermediate Care Technician Pilot Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr.	Graves of Missouri introd	duced the	following	bill; wh	nich was	referred t	Ю
	the Committee on						

## A BILL

To revive and expand the Intermediate Care Technician Pilot Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Improving Veterans
- 5 Access to Quality Care Act of 2015".

1	SEC. 2. REVIVAL AND EXPANSION OF INTERMEDIATE CARE
2	TECHNICIAN PILOT PROGRAM OF DEPART-
3	MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.
4	(a) Revival.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
5	shall revive the Intermediate Care Technician Pilot Pro-
6	gram of the Department of Veterans Affairs that was car-
7	ried out by the Secretary between January 2013 and Feb-
8	ruary 2014.
9	(b) Technicians.—
10	(1) In General.—The Secretary shall expand
11	the pilot program under subsection (a) to include
12	not less than 250 intermediate care technicians who
13	are participating in the pilot program.
14	(2) Facilities.—
15	(A) In general.—Any intermediate care
16	technician hired pursuant to paragraph (1) may
17	be assigned to a medical facility of the Depart-
18	ment as determined by the Secretary for pur-
19	poses of this section.
20	(B) Priority.—In assigning intermediate
21	care technicians under subparagraph (A), the
22	Secretary shall give priority to facilities at
23	which veterans have the longest wait times for
24	appointments for the receipt of hospital care or
25	medical services from the Department, as deter-

1	mined by the Secretary for purposes of this sec-
2	tion.
3	(c) TERMINATION.—The Secretary shall carry out
4	the pilot program under subsection (a) during the three-
5	year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this
6	Act.
7	(d) Hospital Care and Medical Services De-
8	FINED.—In this section, the terms "hospital care" and
9	"medical services" have the meanings given such terms
10	in section 1701 of title 38, United States Code.
11	SEC. 3. TRANSFER OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDER
10	CREDENTIALING DATA FROM SECRETARY OF
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12 13	DEFENSE TO SECRETARY OF VETERANS AF-
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<ul><li>13</li><li>14</li><li>15</li></ul>	DEFENSE TO SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.
13 14 15 16	DEFENSE TO SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFIRMS.  (a) IN GENERAL.—In a case in which the Secretary
13 14 15 16 17	<b>DEFENSE TO SECRETARY OF VETERANS AF- FAIRS.</b> (a) IN GENERAL.—In a case in which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs hires a covered health care provider,
13 14 15 16 17	FAIRS.  (a) IN GENERAL.—In a case in which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs hires a covered health care provider, the Secretary of Defense shall, after receiving a request
13 14 15 16 17 18	FAIRS.  (a) In General.—In a case in which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs hires a covered health care provider, the Secretary of Defense shall, after receiving a request from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	FAIRS.  (a) IN GENERAL.—In a case in which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs hires a covered health care provider, the Secretary of Defense shall, after receiving a request from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the credentialing data of the Secretary of Defense relating to
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	FAIRS.  (a) In General.—In a case in which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs hires a covered health care provider, the Secretary of Defense shall, after receiving a request from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the credentialing data of the Secretary of Defense relating to such health care provider, transfer to the Secretary of Veterary of Veterar
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	FAIRS.  (a) In General.—In a case in which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs hires a covered health care provider, the Secretary of Defense shall, after receiving a request from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the credentialing data of the Secretary of Defense relating to such health care provider, transfer to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs such credentialing data.

1	(1) is or was employed by the Secretary of De-
2	fense;
3	(2) provides or provided health care related
4	services as part of such employment; and
5	(3) was credentialed by the Secretary of De-
6	fense.
7	(c) Policies and Regulations.—The Secretary of
8	Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense shall estab-
9	lish such policies and promulgate such regulations as may
10	be necessary to carry out this section.
11	(d) CREDENTIALING DEFINED.—In this section, the
12	term "credentialing" means the systematic process of
13	screening and evaluating qualifications and other creden-
14	tials, including licensure, required education, relevant
15	training and experience, and current competence and
16	health status.
17	SEC. 4. FULL PRACTICE AUTHORITY OF ADVANCED PRAC-
18	TICE REGISTERED NURSES OF DEPARTMENT
19	OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.
20	(a) In General.—Notwithstanding any provision of
21	law of a State, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may au-
22	thorize a covered nurse to practice to the full scope of the
23	nurse's practice, as defined by the applicable national pro-
24	fessional association, under a set of privileges approved

- 1 by the Secretary, regardless of the State in which the cov-
- 2 ered nurse is employed by the Secretary.
- 3 (b) COVERED NURSES.—For purposes of this section,
- 4 a covered nurse is an advanced practice registered nurse
- 5 who is employed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in
- 6 any of the following specializations:
- 7 (1) Nurse midwife.
- 8 (2) Clinical nurse specialist.
- 9 (3) Nurse practitioner.
- 10 (4) Certified registered nurse anesthetist.