

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2214

To improve the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with private physicians to conduct medical disability examinations.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 1, 2015

Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mrs. WALORSKI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To improve the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with private physicians to conduct medical disability examinations.

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 “Disabled Veterans’ Ac-
5 cess to Medical Exams Improvement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO AUTHORITY FOR PERFORM-**
2 **ANCE OF MEDICAL DISABILITIES EXAMINA-**
3 **TIONS BY CONTRACT PHYSICIANS.**

4 (a) **EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY AUTHORITY.**—Sub-
5 section (c) of section 704 of the Veterans Benefits Act
6 of 2003 (38 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended by striking
7 “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31,
8 2017”.

9 (b) **LICENSURE OF CONTRACT PHYSICIANS.**—

10 (1) **TEMPORARY AUTHORITY.**—Such section
11 704 is further amended—

12 (A) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
13 section (e); and

14 (B) by inserting after subsection (c) the
15 following new subsection (d):

16 “(d) **LICENSURE OF CONTRACT PHYSICIANS.**—

17 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any law
18 regarding the licensure of physicians, a physician de-
19 scribed in paragraph (2) may conduct an examina-
20 tion pursuant to a contract entered into under sub-
21 section (b) at any location in any State, the District
22 of Columbia, or a Commonwealth, territory, or pos-
23 session of the United States, so long as the examina-
24 tion is within the scope of the authorized duties
25 under such contract and the physician is not barred

1 from conducting such an examination in the location
2 in which it occurs.

3 “(2) PHYSICIAN DESCRIBED.—A physician de-
4 scribed in this paragraph is a physician who—

5 “(A) has a current license to practice the
6 health care profession of the physician; and

7 “(B) is performing authorized duties for
8 the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to
9 a contract entered into under subsection (b).”.

10 (2) PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 504 of the Vet-
11 erans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 1996 (38
12 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended—

13 (A) by redesignating subsections (c) and
14 (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

15 (B) by inserting after subsection (b) the
16 following new subsection (c):

17 “(c) LICENSURE OF CONTRACT PHYSICIANS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any law
19 regarding the licensure of physicians, a physician de-
20 scribed in paragraph (2) may conduct an examina-
21 tion pursuant to a contract entered into under sub-
22 section (a) at any location in any State, the District
23 of Columbia, or a Commonwealth, territory, or pos-
24 session of the United States, so long as the examina-
25 tion is within the scope of the authorized duties

1 under such contract and the physician is not barred
2 from conducting such an examination in the location
3 in which it occurs.

4 “(2) PHYSICIAN DESCRIBED.—A physician de-
5 scribed in this paragraph is a physician who—

6 “(A) has a current license to practice the
7 health care profession of the physician; and

8 “(B) is performing authorized duties for
9 the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to
10 a contract entered into under subsection (a).”.

11 (c) EXPANSION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—Subsection (b)
12 of such section 504 is amended to read as follows:

13 “(b) LOCATIONS.—

14 “(1) NUMBER.—The Secretary may carry out
15 the pilot program under this section through not
16 more than 15 regional offices of the Department of
17 Veterans Affairs.

18 “(2) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall select
19 the regional offices under paragraph (1) by ana-
20 lyzing appropriate data to determine the regional of-
21 fices that require support. Such appropriate data
22 shall include—

23 “(A) the number of backlogged claims;

24 “(B) the total pending case workload;

1 “(C) the length of time cases have been
2 pending;

3 “(D) the accuracy of completed cases; and

4 “(E) the overall timeliness of completed
5 cases.

6 “(3) ANNUAL ANALYSIS.—The Secretary shall
7 carry out the data analysis of the regional offices
8 under paragraph (2) during each year in which the
9 program under this section is carried out to deter-
10 mine the regional offices selected under paragraph
11 (1) for such year.”.

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