

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend title 38, United States Code, to codify the requirements for appointment, qualifications, and pay for therapeutic medical physicists of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

---

Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

---

**A BILL**

To amend title 38, United States Code, to codify the requirements for appointment, qualifications, and pay for therapeutic medical physicists 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 “Department of Vet-  
5 erans Affairs Therapeutic Medical Physicist Pay Cap Re-  
6 lief Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF THERAPEUTIC MEDICAL PHYSI-**  
2 **CISTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**  
3 **AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) APPOINTMENT.—Section 7401(1) of title 38,  
5 United States Code, is amended by inserting “therapeutic  
6 medical physicists, diagnostic medical physicists,” after  
7 “physician assistants,”.

8 (b) QUALIFICATIONS.—Section 7402(b) of such title  
9 is amended—

10 (1) by redesignating paragraph (14) as para-  
11 graph (16); and

12 (2) by inserting after paragraph (13) the fol-  
13 lowing new paragraphs:

14 “(14) THERAPEUTIC MEDICAL PHYSICIST.—To be  
15 eligible to be appointed to a therapeutic medical physicist  
16 position, a person must—

17 “(A) have completed a post-graduate clinical  
18 training program in therapeutic medical physics sat-  
19 isfactory to the Secretary; and

20 “(B) be board certified in the field of thera-  
21 peutic medical physics by a certifying body approved  
22 by the Secretary.

23 “(15) DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL PHYSICIST.—To be eli-  
24 gible to be appointed to a diagnostic medical physicist po-  
25 sition, a person must

1           “(A) have completed a post-graduate clinical  
2           training program in diagnostic medical physics satis-  
3           factory to the Secretary; and

4           “(B) be board certified in the field of diagnostic  
5           medical physics by a certifying body approved by the  
6           Secretary.”.

7           (c) GRADE.—Section 7404(b) of such title is amend-  
8           ed—

9           (1) by inserting “THERAPEUTIC MEDICAL  
10           PHYSICIST, DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL PHYSI-  
11           CIST,” after “PODIATRIST (DPM),”; and

12           (2) by inserting after “Podiatrist grade optom-  
13           etrism grade.” the following:

14           “Therapeutic medical physicist grade.

15           “Diagnostic medical physicist grade.”.

16           (d) PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION.—Section 7421(b)  
17           of such title is amended—

18           (1) by redesignating paragraph (9) as para-  
19           graph (11); and

20           (2) by inserting after paragraph (8) the fol-  
21           lowing new paragraphs:

22           “(9) Therapeutic medical physicists.

23           “(10) Diagnostic medical physicists.”.

24           (e) PAY.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 7431 of such title is  
2 amended—

3           (A) by inserting “, Therapeutic Medical  
4           Physicist, Diagnostic Medical Physicist” before  
5           “, and Dentist Base” each place it appears;

6           (B) by inserting “therapeutic medical  
7           physicist, diagnostic medical physican,” after  
8           “podiatrist,” each place it appears;

9           (C) by inserting “therapeutic medical  
10           physicians, diagnostic medical physicians,” after  
11           “podiatrists,” each place it appears; and

12           (D) in subsection (e)(1)(A), by inserting “,  
13           therapeutic medical physicians, diagnostic med-  
14           ical physicians,” after “podiatrists”.

15           (2) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—Section 7433  
16 of such title is amended by inserting “therapeutic  
17 medical physicians, diagnostic medical physicians,”  
18 after “podiatrists,” each place it appears.

19           (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading  
20 of subchapter III of chapter 74 of such title is  
21 amended by inserting “THERAPEUTIC MEDICAL  
22 PHYSICIANS, DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL PHYSI-  
23 CISTS” after “PODIATRISTS”.

24           (4) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
25 tions at the beginning of chapter 74 of such title is

1 amended by striking the item relating to subchapter  
2 III and inserting the following new item:

“SUBCHAPTER III—PAY FOR PHYSICIANS, PODIATRISTS, THERAPEUTIC  
MEDICAL PHYSICISTS, DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL PHYSICISTS, AND DENTISTS”.

3 (f) REPORT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year  
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
6 retary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Com-  
7 mittee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the  
8 Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of  
9 Representatives a report on the amendments made  
10 by this section.

11 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by para-  
12 graph (1) shall include an assessment of the fol-  
13 lowing:

14 (A) The effects of an increase in pay for  
15 therapeutic medical physicists and diagnostic  
16 medical physicists employed on a full-time basis  
17 within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

18 (B) The effects on therapeutic medical  
19 physicists and diagnostic medical physicists who  
20 provide care pursuant to an agreement with the  
21 Secretary.

22 (C) Any change to costs to the Depart-  
23 ment.