

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3951

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT

To amend the Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act of 1996 and the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 to improve the temporary licensure requirements for contract health care professionals who perform medical disability examinations for 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 “Rural Veterans’ Im-

5 proved Access to Benefits Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO TEMPORARY LICENSURE RE-**
7 **QUIREMENTS FOR CONTRACT HEALTH CARE**
8 **PROFESSIONALS WHO PERFORM MEDICAL**
9 **DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS FOR THE DE-**
10 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

11 (a) EXPANSION.—Section 504 of the Veterans’ Bene-

12 fits Improvements Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–275; 38

13 U.S.C. 5101 note), as amended by paragraph (1) of sub-

14 section (a) of section 2002 of the Johnny Isakson and

15 David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits

16 Improvement Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–315; 38

17 U.S.C. 5101 note), is further amended, subject to the sun-

18 set in paragraph (4) of such subsection, by striking para-

19 graph (2) of subsection (c) and inserting the following:

20 “(2) HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL DE-

21 SCRIBED.—A health care professional described in

22 this paragraph is a person who is eligible for ap-

23 pointment to a position in the Veterans Health Ad-

24 ministration covered by section 7402(b) of title 38,

25 United States Code, who—

1 “(A) has a current and unrestricted license
2 to practice the health care profession of the
3 health care professional;

4 “(B) is not barred from practicing such
5 health care profession in any State; and

6 “(C) is performing authorized duties for
7 the Department pursuant to a contract entered
8 into under subsection (a).”.

9 (b) DELAYED SUNSET OF AMENDMENT.—Paragraph
10 (4) of subsection (a) of section 2002 of the Johnny Isak-
11 son and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and
12 Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–315;
13 38 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended by striking “On the date
14 that is five years after the date of the enactment of this
15 Act” and inserting “On September 30, 2031”.

16 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (2) of
17 such subsection is amended by striking “physicians assist-
18 ants, nurse practitioners, audiologists, and psychologists”
19 and inserting “health care professionals”.

20 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 15 months after the
21 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
22 erans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’
23 Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a re-
24 port regarding the use of the authority under section 504
25 of the Veterans’ Benefits Improvements Act of 1996 (Pub-

1 lie Law 104–275; 38 U.S.C. 5101 note), as temporarily
2 amended by section 2002(a)(1) of the Johnny Isakson and
3 David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits
4 Improvement Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–315; 38
5 U.S.C. 5101 note) and this section. Such report shall in-
6 clude, with respect to the one-year period after the date
7 of the enactment of this Act, the following elements:

8 (1) The number of examinations conducted pur-
9 suant to a contract under such authority.

10 (2) The cost, timeliness, and legal adequacy of
11 such examinations, disaggregated by—

12 (A) health care professional; and

13 (B) contract.

14 (3) The number of such examinations con-
15 ducted in each State, the District of Columbia, or a
16 Commonwealth, territory, or possession of the
17 United States.

18 (4) The numbers of each kind of health care
19 professionals who conducted such examinations.

20 (5) The number of examinations that were erro-
21 neously conducted by a health care professional—

22 (A) without such a contract; or

23 (B) unauthorized to enter into such a con-
24 tract.

