

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 602

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that sexual assault nurse examiners are employed at certain Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 22, 2025

Mr. BURCHETT (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. MACE, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that sexual assault nurse examiners are employed at certain Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities, 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 “Sexual Assault Nurse
5 Examiner in VA Hospitals Act of 2025” or the “SANE
6 Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. QUALIFICATIONS OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS**
2 **WHO PERFORM SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAMINA-**
3 **TIONS AT CERTAIN DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
4 **ERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITIES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
6 shall employ, at each hospital and urgent care facility of
7 the Department of Veterans Affairs—

8 (1) at least one sexual assault nurse examiner;

9 or

10 (2) if the Secretary cannot so employ a sexual
11 assault nurse examiner, a health care provider quali-
12 fied to conduct a sexual assault forensic examina-
13 tion.

14 (b) MENTAL HEALTH CARE REFERRAL.—After ex-
15 amining an individual for sexual assault, a health care
16 provider of the Department shall verbally refer the indi-
17 vidual to mental health care services furnished by the Sec-
18 retary—

19 (1) in a hospital of the Department; or

20 (2) pursuant to a Veterans Care Agreement
21 under section 1703A of title 38, United States Code,
22 if the wait time for services described in paragraph
23 (1) exceeds 30 days.

24 (c) DEDICATED RESPONSIBILITIES.—In carrying out
25 this section, the Secretary shall ensure that there is no
26 reduction in, or negative effect on, the patient care respon-

1 sibilities that are otherwise carried out by employees of
2 the Department.

3 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “sexual
4 assault nurse examiner” and “sexual assault forensic ex-
5 amination” have the meanings given such terms in section
6 304(a) of the DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2004
7 (34 U.S.C. 40723(a)).

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