

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7413

To provide direct hire authority to the Attorney General for purposes of appointing qualified candidates to positions in the Drug Enforcement Administration to work in locations deemed necessary by the Attorney General to support the Administration's mission, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2026

Mr. FONG (for himself, Mr. KNOTT, and Mr. KILEY of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

---

## A BILL

To provide direct hire authority to the Attorney General for purposes of appointing qualified candidates to positions in the Drug Enforcement Administration to work in locations deemed necessary by the Attorney General to support the Administration's mission, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Hiring Improvement  
3 and Recruitment Empowerment for Drug Enforcement  
4 Administration Act” or the “HIRE DEA Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY FOR APPOINTING PER-**  
6 **SONNEL TO DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINIS-**  
7 **TRATION POSITIONS TO COMBAT DRUG**  
8 **TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES.**

9       (a) IN GENERAL.—During each of fiscal years 2027  
10 through 2034, the Attorney General may appoint, without  
11 regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of  
12 title 5, United States Code, (other than sections 3303 and  
13 3328 of such chapter), qualified candidates to any covered  
14 position in the Drug Enforcement Administration to work  
15 in locations deemed necessary to support the Administra-  
16 tion’s mission, as determined by the Attorney General.

17       (b) COVERED POSITION DEFINED.—In this section,  
18 the term “covered position” includes program managers,  
19 project managers, criminal investigators/Special Agents in  
20 classification series 1811 (or any successor series), intel-  
21 ligence analysts/Intelligence Research Specialists, forensic  
22 specialists, community outreach coordinators, and any  
23 other position that the Attorney General determines is  
24 necessary based on emerging drug trafficking trends or  
25 threats.

