

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8010

To prohibit the downgrading of law enforcement positions in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 2026

Mr. KENNEDY of New York introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To prohibit the downgrading of law enforcement positions in 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 “VA Police Recruitment  
5 and Retention Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON DOWNGRADING OF LAW EN-**  
7 **FORCEMENT POSITIONS IN THE DEPART-**  
8 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

9 (a) PROHIBITION.—No official in the Department of  
10 Veterans Affairs, the Office of Personnel Management, or

1 any other department or agency may propose, initiate, or  
2 carry out a position downgrade for any covered VA posi-  
3 tion, and no Federal funds may be used to propose, ini-  
4 tiate, or carry out a position downgrade for any such posi-  
5 tion.

6 (b) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.—Any position  
7 downgrade for a covered VA position proposed, initiated,  
8 or carried out during the period beginning October 1,  
9 2025, and ending on the date of the enactment of this  
10 Act shall have no force or effect. Any such position sub-  
11 jected to a position downgrade during this period shall be  
12 returned to the status it had prior to the position down-  
13 grade. Any employee occupying such a position shall re-  
14 ceive all pay to which they otherwise would have been enti-  
15 tled.

16 (c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

17 (1) The term “covered VA position” means a  
18 position carrying out law enforcement functions  
19 within the Department of Veterans Affairs, whether  
20 permanent, temporary, full-time, part-time, or inter-  
21 mittent, and without regard to the source of funding  
22 for the position.

23 (2) The term “position downgrade” means a  
24 consistency review, incumbent-only review, or other  
25 classification action taken by the Office of Personnel

1 Management or any other department or agency  
2 pursuant to chapter 51 of title 5, United States  
3 Code, or similar authority, that may result in a loss  
4 of grade or pay associated with a position or set of  
5 positions, without regard to whether an employee oc-  
6 cupying such a position is entitled to or otherwise  
7 provided with retained grade or pay.

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