

Union Calendar No. 170

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1994

[Report No. 114–225, Part I]

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal or demotion of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs based on performance or misconduct, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 23, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida (for himself, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. BENISHEK, and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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

JULY 23, 2015

Additional sponsors: Mr. BABIN, Mr. LATTA, Mr. ROUZER, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. STEWART, Mr. JONES, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. DENT, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, Mr. KLINE, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. MCSALLY, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. HILL, Mr. YOHO, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. SALMON, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. AMODEI, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. MESSER, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. PERRY, Mr. OLSON, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. MICA, Mr. BARR, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. WALBERG, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BOST, Mr. RIGELL, Mrs.

ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. MARINO, Mr. BRAT, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. FLORES, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. COOK, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. KATKO, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania

JULY 23, 2015

Deleted sponsor: Mrs. LAWRENCE (added May 12, 2015; deleted June 2, 2015)

JULY 23, 2015

Reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

JULY 23, 2015

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on April 23, 2015]

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal or demotion of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs based on performance or misconduct, 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 Accountability Act*
5 *of 2015”.*

6 **SEC. 2. REMOVAL OR DEMOTION OF EMPLOYEES BASED ON**
7 **PERFORMANCE OR MISCONDUCT.**

8 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 38, United States*
9 *Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new*
10 *section:*

11 **“§ 715. Employees: removal or demotion based on per-**
12 **formance or misconduct**

13 *“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may remove or de-*
14 *mote an individual who is an employee of the Department*
15 *if the Secretary determines the performance or misconduct*
16 *of the individual warrants such removal or demotion. If*
17 *the Secretary so removes or demotes such an individual, the*
18 *Secretary may—*

19 *“(1) remove the individual from the civil service*
20 *(as defined in section 2101 of title 5); or*

21 *“(2) demote the individual by means of—*

22 *“(A) a reduction in grade for which the in-*
23 *dividual is qualified and that the Secretary de-*
24 *termines is appropriate; or*

1 “(B) a reduction in annual rate of pay that
2 the Secretary determines is appropriate.

3 “(b) *PAY OF CERTAIN DEMOTED INDIVIDUALS.*—(1)
4 *Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any indi-*
5 *vidual subject to a demotion under subsection (a)(2)(A)*
6 *shall, beginning on the date of such demotion, receive the*
7 *annual rate of pay applicable to such grade.*

8 “(2) *An individual so demoted may not be placed on*
9 *administrative leave or any other category of paid leave*
10 *during the period during which an appeal (if any) under*
11 *this section is ongoing, and may only receive pay if the*
12 *individual reports for duty. If an individual so demoted*
13 *does not report for duty, such individual shall not receive*
14 *pay or other benefits pursuant to subsection (e)(5).*

15 “(c) *NOTICE TO CONGRESS.*—*Not later than 30 days*
16 *after removing or demoting an individual under subsection*
17 *(a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Vet-*
18 *erans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives*
19 *notice in writing of such removal or demotion and the rea-*
20 *son for such removal or demotion.*

21 “(d) *PROCEDURE.*—(1) *The procedures under section*
22 *7513(b) of title 5 and chapter 43 of such title shall not*
23 *apply to a removal or demotion under this section.*

24 “(2)(A) *Subject to subparagraph (B) and subsection*
25 *(e), any removal or demotion under subsection (a) may be*

1 *appealed to the Merit Systems Protection Board under sec-*
2 *tion 7701 of title 5.*

3 “(B) *An appeal under subparagraph (A) of a removal*
4 *or demotion may only be made if such appeal is made not*
5 *later than seven days after the date of such removal or de-*
6 *motion.*

7 “(e) *EXPEDITED REVIEW BY ADMINISTRATIVE*
8 *JUDGE.—(1) Upon receipt of an appeal under subsection*
9 *(d)(2)(A), the Merit Systems Protection Board shall refer*
10 *such appeal to an administrative judge pursuant to section*
11 *7701(b)(1) of title 5. The administrative judge shall expe-*
12 *dite any such appeal under such section and, in any such*
13 *case, shall issue a decision not later than 45 days after the*
14 *date of the appeal.*

15 “(2) *Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in-*
16 *cluding section 7703 of title 5, the decision of an adminis-*
17 *trative judge under paragraph (1) shall be final and shall*
18 *not be subject to any further appeal.*

19 “(3) *In any case in which the administrative judge*
20 *cannot issue a decision in accordance with the 45-day re-*
21 *quirement under paragraph (1), the removal or demotion*
22 *is final. In such a case, the Merit Systems Protection Board*
23 *shall, within 14 days after the date that such removal or*
24 *demotion is final, submit to Congress and the Committees*
25 *on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representa-*

1 *tives a report that explains the reasons why a decision was*
2 *not issued in accordance with such requirement.*

3 “(4) *The Merit Systems Protection Board or adminis-*
4 *trative judge may not stay any removal or demotion under*
5 *this section.*

6 “(5) *During the period beginning on the date on which*
7 *an individual appeals a removal from the civil service*
8 *under subsection (d) and ending on the date that the ad-*
9 *ministrative judge issues a final decision on such appeal,*
10 *such individual may not receive any pay, awards, bonuses,*
11 *incentives, allowances, differentials, student loan repay-*
12 *ments, special payments, or benefits.*

13 “(6) *To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary*
14 *shall provide to the Merit Systems Protection Board, and*
15 *to any administrative judge to whom an appeal under this*
16 *section is referred, such information and assistance as may*
17 *be necessary to ensure an appeal under this subsection is*
18 *expedited.*

19 “(f) *WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION.—(1) In the case*
20 *of an individual seeking corrective action (or on behalf of*
21 *whom corrective action is sought) from the Office of Special*
22 *Counsel based on an alleged prohibited personnel practice*
23 *described in section 2302(b) of title 5, the Secretary may*
24 *not remove or demote such individual under subsection (a)*

1 *without the approval of the Special Counsel under section*
2 *1214(f) of title 5.*

3 “(2) *In the case of an individual who has filed a whis-*
4 *tleblower complaint, as such term is defined in section 731*
5 *of this title, the Secretary may not remove or demote such*
6 *individual under subsection (a) until the central whistle-*
7 *blower office under section 732(h) of this title has made a*
8 *final decision with respect to the whistleblower complaint.*

9 “(g) *TERMINATION OF INVESTIGATIONS BY OFFICE OF*
10 *SPECIAL COUNSEL.—Notwithstanding any other provision*
11 *of law, the Special Counsel (established by section 1211 of*
12 *title 5) may terminate an investigation of a prohibited per-*
13 *sonnel practice alleged by an employee or former employee*
14 *of the Department after the Special Counsel provides to the*
15 *employee or former employee a written statement of the rea-*
16 *sons for the termination of the investigation. Such state-*
17 *ment may not be admissible as evidence in any judicial*
18 *or administrative proceeding without the consent of such*
19 *employee or former employee.*

20 “(h) *RELATION TO TITLE 5.—The authority provided*
21 *by this section is in addition to the authority provided by*
22 *subchapter V of chapter 75 of title 5 and chapter 43 of such*
23 *title.*

24 “(i) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

1 “(1) *The term ‘individual’ means an individual*
2 *occupying a position at the Department but does not*
3 *include—*

4 “(A) *an individual, as that term is defined*
5 *in section 713(g)(1); or*

6 “(B) *a political appointee.*

7 “(2) *The term ‘grade’ has the meaning given*
8 *such term in section 7511(a) of title 5.*

9 “(3) *The term ‘misconduct’ includes neglect of*
10 *duty, malfeasance, or failure to accept a directed re-*
11 *assignment or to accompany a position in a transfer*
12 *of function.*

13 “(4) *The term ‘political appointee’ means an in-*
14 *dividual who is—*

15 “(A) *employed in a position described*
16 *under sections 5312 through 5316 of title 5 (re-*
17 *lating to the Executive Schedule);*

18 “(B) *a limited term appointee, limited*
19 *emergency appointee, or noncareer appointee in*
20 *the Senior Executive Service, as defined under*
21 *paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively, of sec-*
22 *tion 3132(a) of title 5; or*

23 “(C) *employed in a position of a confiden-*
24 *tial or policy-determining character under sched-*

1 *ule C of subpart C of part 213 of title 5 of the*
2 *Code of Federal Regulations.”.*

3 **(b) CLERICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—**

4 **(1) CLERICAL.—***The table of sections at the be-*
5 *ginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the*
6 *end the following new item:*

“715. Employees: removal or demotion based on performance or misconduct.”.

7 **(2) CONFORMING.—***Section 4303(f) of title 5,*
8 *United States Code, is amended—*

9 **(A)** *by striking “or” at the end of para-*
10 *graph (2);*

11 **(B)** *by striking the period at the end of*
12 *paragraph (3) and inserting “, or”; and*

13 **(C)** *by adding at the end the following:*

14 *“(4) any removal or demotion under section 715*
15 *of title 38.”.*

16 **SEC. 3. REQUIRED PROBATIONARY PERIOD FOR NEW EM-**
17 **PLOYEES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
18 **FAIRS.**

19 **(a) PROBATIONARY PERIOD.—**

20 **(1) IN GENERAL.—***Chapter 7 of title 38, United*
21 *States Code, as amended by section 2, is further*
22 *amended by adding at the end the following new sec-*
23 *tion:*

1 **“§ 717. Probationary period for employees**

2 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Notwithstanding sections 3321
3 and 3393(d) of title 5, the appointment of a covered em-
4 ployee shall become final only after such employee has
5 served a probationary period of 18 months. The Secretary
6 may extend a probationary period under this subsection at
7 the discretion of the Secretary.

8 “(b) *COVERED EMPLOYEE.*—In this section, the term
9 ‘covered employee’—

10 “(1) means any individual—

11 “(A) appointed to a permanent position
12 within the competitive service at the Depart-
13 ment; or

14 “(B) appointed as a career appointee (as
15 that term is defined in section 3132(a)(4) of title
16 5) within the Senior Executive Service at the
17 Department; and

18 “(2) does not include any individual with a pro-
19 bationary period prescribed by section 7403 of this
20 title.

21 “(c) *PERMANENT HIRES.*—Upon the expiration of a
22 covered employee’s probationary period under subsection
23 (a), the supervisor of the employee shall determine whether
24 the appointment becomes final based on regulations pre-
25 scribed for such purpose by the Secretary.”.

26 (2) *CLERICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.*—

1 (A) *CLERICAL.*—*The table of sections at the*
2 *beginning of such chapter, as amended by section*
3 *2, is further amended by adding at the end the*
4 *following new item:*

“717. Probationary period for employees.”.

5 (B) *CONFORMING.*—*Title 5, United States*
6 *Code, is amended—*

7 (i) *in section 3321(c)—*

8 (I) *by striking “Service or” and*
9 *inserting “Service,”; and*

10 (II) *by inserting at the end before*
11 *the period the following: “, or any in-*
12 *dividual covered by section 717 of title*
13 *38”; and*

14 (ii) *in section 3393(d), by adding at*
15 *the end after the period the following: “The*
16 *preceding sentence shall not apply to any*
17 *individual covered by section 717 of title*
18 *38.”.*

19 (b) *APPLICATION.*—*Section 717 of title 38, United*
20 *States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), shall apply to*
21 *any covered employee (as that term is defined in subsection*
22 *(b) of such section 717, as so added) appointed after the*
23 *date of the enactment of this Act.*

1 **SEC. 4. TREATMENT OF WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINTS IN**
2 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

3 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Chapter 7 of title 38, United States
4 Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following
5 new subchapter:

6 “SUBCHAPTER II—WHISTLEBLOWER
7 COMPLAINTS

8 “§ 731. *Whistleblower complaint defined*

9 “In this subchapter, the term ‘whistleblower complaint’
10 means a complaint by an employee of the Department dis-
11 closing, or assisting another employee to disclose, a poten-
12 tial violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or gross mis-
13 management, gross waste of funds, abuse of authority, or
14 substantial and specific danger to public health and safety.

15 “§ 732. *Treatment of whistleblower complaints*

16 “(a) *FILING.*—(1) In addition to any other method es-
17 tablished by law in which an employee may file a whistle-
18 blower complaint, an employee of the Department may file
19 a whistleblower complaint in accordance with subsection (g)
20 with a supervisor of the employee.

21 “(2) Except as provided by subsection (d)(1), in mak-
22 ing a whistleblower complaint under paragraph (1), an em-
23 ployee shall file the initial complaint with the immediate
24 supervisor of the employee.

25 “(b) *NOTIFICATION.*—(1) Not later than four business
26 days after the date on which a supervisor receives a whistle-

1 blower complaint by an employee under this section, the
2 supervisor shall notify, in writing, the employee of whether
3 the supervisor determines that there is a reasonable likeli-
4 hood that the complaint discloses a violation of any law,
5 rule, or regulation, or gross mismanagement, gross waste
6 of funds, abuse of authority, or substantial and specific
7 danger to public health and safety. The supervisor shall re-
8 tain written documentation regarding the whistleblower
9 complaint and shall submit to the next-level supervisor and
10 the central whistleblower office described in subsection (h)
11 a written report on the complaint.

12 “(2) On a monthly basis, the supervisor shall submit
13 to the appropriate director or other official who is superior
14 to the supervisor a written report that includes the number
15 of whistleblower complaints received by the supervisor
16 under this section during the month covered by the report,
17 the disposition of such complaints, and any actions taken
18 because of such complaints pursuant to subsection (c). In
19 the case in which such a director or official carries out this
20 paragraph, the director or official shall submit such month-
21 ly report to the supervisor of the director or official and
22 to the central whistleblower office described in subsection
23 (h).

24 “(c) *POSITIVE DETERMINATION.*—If a supervisor
25 makes a positive determination under subsection (b)(1) re-

1 *garding a whistleblower complaint of an employee, the su-*
2 *pervisor shall include in the notification to the employee*
3 *under such subsection the specific actions that the super-*
4 *visor will take to address the complaint.*

5 “(d) *FILING COMPLAINT WITH NEXT-LEVEL SUPER-*
6 *VISORS.—(1) If any circumstance described in paragraph*
7 *(3) is met, an employee may file a whistleblower complaint*
8 *in accordance with subsection (g) with the next-level super-*
9 *visor who shall treat such complaint in accordance with*
10 *this section.*

11 “(2) *An employee may file a whistleblower complaint*
12 *with the Secretary if the employee has filed the whistle-*
13 *blower complaint to each level of supervisors between the*
14 *employee and the Secretary in accordance with paragraph*
15 *(1).*

16 “(3) *A circumstance described in this paragraph are*
17 *any of the following circumstances:*

18 “(A) *A supervisor does not make a timely deter-*
19 *mination under subsection (b)(1) regarding a whistle-*
20 *blower complaint.*

21 “(B) *The employee who made a whistleblower*
22 *complaint determines that the supervisor did not ade-*
23 *quately address the complaint pursuant to subsection*
24 *(c).*

1 “(C) *The immediate supervisor of the employee*
2 *is the basis of the whistleblower complaint.*

3 “(e) *TRANSFER OF EMPLOYEE WHO FILES WHISTLE-*
4 *BLOWER COMPLAINT.—If a supervisor makes a positive de-*
5 *termination under subsection (b)(1) regarding a whistle-*
6 *blower complaint filed by an employee, the Secretary*
7 *shall—*

8 “(1) *inform the employee of the ability to volun-*
9 *teer for a transfer in accordance with section 3352 of*
10 *title 5; and*

11 “(2) *give preference to the employee for such a*
12 *transfer in accordance with such section.*

13 “(f) *PROHIBITION ON EXEMPTION.—The Secretary*
14 *may not exempt any employee of the Department from*
15 *being covered by this section.*

16 “(g) *WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINT FORM.—(1) A*
17 *whistleblower complaint filed by an employee under sub-*
18 *section (a) or (d) shall consist of the form described in para-*
19 *graph (2) and any supporting materials or documentation*
20 *the employee determines necessary.*

21 “(2) *The form described in this paragraph is a form*
22 *developed by the Secretary, in consultation with the Special*
23 *Counsel, that includes the following:*

24 “(A) *An explanation of the purpose of the whis-*
25 *tleblower complaint form.*

1 “(B) *Instructions for filing a whistleblower com-*
2 *plaint as described in this section.*

3 “(C) *An explanation that filing a whistleblower*
4 *complaint under this section does not preclude the*
5 *employee from any other method established by law in*
6 *which an employee may file a whistleblower com-*
7 *plaint.*

8 “(D) *A statement directing the employee to in-*
9 *formation accessible on the Internet website of the De-*
10 *partment as described in section 735(c).*

11 “(E) *Fields for the employee to provide—*

12 “(i) *the date that the form is submitted;*

13 “(ii) *the name of the employee;*

14 “(iii) *the contact information of the em-*
15 *ployee;*

16 “(iv) *a summary of the whistleblower com-*
17 *plaint (including the option to append sup-*
18 *porting documents pursuant to paragraph (1));*

19 *and*

20 “(v) *proposed solutions to complaint.*

21 “(F) *Any other information or fields that the*
22 *Secretary determines appropriate.*

23 “(3) *The Secretary, in consultation with the Special*
24 *Counsel, shall develop the form described in paragraph (2)*

1 *by not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment*
2 *of this section.*

3 “(h) *CENTRAL WHISTLEBLOWER OFFICE.—(1) The*
4 *Secretary shall ensure that the central whistleblower of-*
5 *fice—*

6 “(A) *is not an element of the Office of the Gen-*
7 *eral Counsel;*

8 “(B) *is not headed by an official who reports to*
9 *the General Counsel;*

10 “(C) *does not provide, or receive from, the Gen-*
11 *eral Counsel any information regarding a whistle-*
12 *blower complaint except pursuant to an action re-*
13 *garding the complaint before an administrative body*
14 *or court; and*

15 “(D) *does not provide advice to the General*
16 *Counsel.*

17 “(2) *The central whistleblower office shall be respon-*
18 *sible for investigating all whistleblower complaints of the*
19 *Department, regardless of whether such complaints are*
20 *made by or against an employee who is not a member of*
21 *the Senior Executive Service.*

22 “(3) *The Secretary shall ensure that the central whis-*
23 *tleblower office maintains a toll-free hotline to anonymously*
24 *receive whistleblower complaints.*

1 “(4) *In this subsection, the term ‘central whistleblower*
2 *office’ means the Office of Accountability Review or a suc-*
3 *cessor office that is established or designated by the Sec-*
4 *retary to investigate whistleblower complaints filed under*
5 *this section or any other method established by law.*

6 “**§ 733. Adverse actions against supervisory employees**
7 *who commit prohibited personnel actions*
8 *relating to whistleblower complaints*

9 “(a) *IN GENERAL.—(1) In accordance with paragraph*
10 *(2), the Secretary shall carry out the following adverse ac-*
11 *tions against supervisory employees whom the Secretary, an*
12 *administrative judge, the Merit Systems Protection Board,*
13 *the Office of Special Counsel, an adjudicating body pro-*
14 *vided under a union contract, a Federal judge, or the In-*
15 *spector General of the Department determines committed a*
16 *prohibited personnel action described in subsection (c):*

17 “(A) *With respect to the first offense, an adverse*
18 *action that is not less than a 14-day suspension and*
19 *not more than removal.*

20 “(B) *With respect to the second offense, removal.*

21 “(2)(A) *Except as provided by subparagraph (B), and*
22 *notwithstanding subsections (b) and (c) of section 7513 and*
23 *section 7543 of title 5, the provisions of subsections (d) and*
24 *(e) of section 713 of this title shall apply with respect to*
25 *an adverse action carried out under paragraph (1).*

1 “(B) An employee who is notified of being the subject
2 of a proposed adverse action under paragraph (1) may not
3 be given more than five days following such notification to
4 provide evidence to dispute such proposed adverse action.
5 If the employee does not provide any such evidence, or if
6 the Secretary determines that such evidence is not sufficient
7 to reverse the determination to propose the adverse action,
8 the Secretary shall carry out the adverse action following
9 such five-day period.

10 “(b) *LIMITATION ON OTHER ADVERSE ACTIONS.*—
11 With respect to a prohibited personnel action described in
12 subsection (c), if the Secretary carries out an adverse action
13 against a supervisory employee, the Secretary may carry
14 out an additional adverse action under this section based
15 on the same prohibited personnel action if the total severity
16 of the adverse actions do not exceed the level specified in
17 subsection (a).

18 “(c) *PROHIBITED PERSONNEL ACTION DESCRIBED.*—
19 A prohibited personnel action described in this subsection
20 is any of the following actions:

21 “(1) Taking or failing to take a personnel action
22 in violation of section 2302 of title 5 against an em-
23 ployee relating to the employee—

24 “(A) filing a whistleblower complaint in ac-
25 cordance with section 732 of this title;

1 “(B) filing a whistleblower complaint with
2 the Inspector General of the Department, the
3 Special Counsel, or Congress;

4 “(C) providing information or partici-
5 pating as a witness in an investigation of a
6 whistleblower complaint in accordance with sec-
7 tion 732 or with the Inspector General of the De-
8 partment, the Special Counsel, or Congress;

9 “(D) participating in an audit or inves-
10 tigation by the Comptroller General of the
11 United States;

12 “(E) refusing to perform an action that is
13 unlawful or prohibited by the Department; or

14 “(F) engaging in communications that are
15 related to the duties of the position or are other-
16 wise protected.

17 “(2) Preventing or restricting an employee from
18 making an action described in any of subparagraphs
19 (A) through (F) of paragraph (1).

20 “(3) Conducting a peer review or opening a re-
21 taliatory investigation relating to an activity of an
22 employee that is protected by section 2302 of title 5.

23 “(4) Requesting a contractor to carry out an ac-
24 tion that is prohibited by section 4705(b) or section
25 4712(a)(1) of title 41, as the case may be.

1 **“§ 734. Evaluation criteria of supervisors and treat-**
2 **ment of bonuses**

3 “(a) *EVALUATION CRITERIA.—(1) In evaluating the*
4 *performance of supervisors of the Department, the Secretary*
5 *shall include the criteria described in paragraph (2).*

6 “(2) *The criteria described in this subsection are the*
7 *following:*

8 “(A) *Whether the supervisor treats whistleblower*
9 *complaints in accordance with section 732.*

10 “(B) *Whether the appropriate deciding official,*
11 *performance review board, or performance review*
12 *committee determines that the supervisor was found*
13 *to have committed a prohibited personnel action de-*
14 *scribed in section 733(b) by an administrative judge,*
15 *the Merit Systems Protection Board, the Office of*
16 *Special Counsel, an adjudicating body provided*
17 *under a union contract, a Federal judge, or, in the*
18 *case of a settlement of a whistleblower complaint (re-*
19 *gardless of whether any fault was assigned under such*
20 *settlement), the Secretary.*

21 “(b) *BONUSES.—(1) The Secretary may not pay to a*
22 *supervisor described in subsection (a)(2)(B) an award or*
23 *bonus under this title or title 5, including under chapter*
24 *45 or 53 of such title, during the one-year period beginning*
25 *on the date on which the determination was made under*
26 *such subsection.*

1 “(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
2 Secretary shall issue an order directing a supervisor de-
3 scribed in subsection (a)(2)(B) to repay the amount of any
4 award or bonus paid under this title or title 5, including
5 under chapter 45 or 53 of such title, if—

6 “(A) such award or bonus was paid for perform-
7 ance during a period in which the supervisor com-
8 mitted a prohibited personnel action as determined
9 pursuant to such subsection (a)(2)(B);

10 “(B) the Secretary determines such repayment
11 appropriate pursuant to regulations prescribed by the
12 Secretary to carry out this section; and

13 “(C) the supervisor is afforded notice and an op-
14 portunity for a hearing before making such repay-
15 ment.

16 **“§ 735. Training regarding whistleblower complaints**

17 “(a) TRAINING.—The Secretary, in coordination with
18 the Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman designated under
19 section 3(d)(1)(C) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5
20 U.S.C. App.), shall annually provide to each employee of
21 the Department training regarding whistleblower com-
22 plaints, including—

23 “(1) an explanation of each method established
24 by law in which an employee may file a whistleblower
25 complaint;

1 “(2) an explanation of prohibited personnel ac-
2 tions described by section 733(c) of this title;

3 “(3) with respect to supervisors, how to treat
4 whistleblower complaints in accordance with section
5 732 of this title;

6 “(4) the right of the employee to petition Con-
7 gress regarding a whistleblower complaint in accord-
8 ance with section 7211 of title 5;

9 “(5) an explanation that the employee may not
10 be prosecuted or reprimed against for disclosing infor-
11 mation to Congress in instances where such disclosure
12 is permitted by law, including under sections 5701,
13 5705, and 7732 of this title, under section 552a of
14 title 5 (commonly referred to as the Privacy Act),
15 under chapter 93 of title 18, and pursuant to regula-
16 tions promulgated under section 264(c) of the Health
17 Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996
18 (Public Law 104–191);

19 “(6) an explanation of the language that is re-
20 quired to be included in all nondisclosure policies,
21 forms, and agreements pursuant to section 115(a)(1)
22 of the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of
23 2012 (5 U.S.C. 2302 note); and

1 “(7) *the right of contractors to be protected from*
2 *reprisal for the disclosure of certain information*
3 *under section 4705 or 4712 of title 41.*

4 “(b) *CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall annually*
5 *provide training on merit system protection in a manner*
6 *that the Special Counsel certifies as being satisfactory.*

7 “(c) *PUBLICATION.—(1) The Secretary shall publish*
8 *on the Internet website of the Department, and display*
9 *prominently at each facility of the Department, the rights*
10 *of an employee to file a whistleblower complaint, including*
11 *the information described in paragraphs (1) through (7) of*
12 *subsection (a).*

13 “(2) *The Secretary shall publish on the Internet*
14 *website of the Department, the whistleblower complaint*
15 *form described in section 732(g)(2).*

16 **“§ 736. Reports to Congress**

17 “(a) *ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Secretary shall annu-*
18 *ally submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the*
19 *House of Representatives and the Senate, the Committee on*
20 *Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Rep-*
21 *resentatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and*
22 *Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that includes—*

23 “(1) *with respect to whistleblower complaints*
24 *filed under section 732 during the year covered by the*
25 *report—*

1 “(A) the number of such complaints filed;

2 “(B) the disposition of such complaints; and

3 “(C) the ways in which the Secretary ad-
4 dressed such complaints in which a positive de-
5 termination was made by a supervisor under
6 subsection (b)(1) of such section;

7 “(2) the number of whistleblower complaints
8 filed during the year covered by the report that are
9 not included under paragraph (1), including—

10 “(A) the method in which such complaints
11 were filed;

12 “(B) the disposition of such complaints; and

13 “(C) the ways in which the Secretary ad-
14 dressed such complaints; and

15 “(3) with respect to disclosures made by a con-
16 tractor under section 4705 or 4712 of title 41—

17 “(A) the number of complaints relating to
18 such disclosures that were investigated by the In-
19 spector General of the Department of Veterans
20 Affairs during the year covered by the report;

21 “(B) the disposition of such complaints; and

22 “(C) the ways in which the Secretary ad-
23 dressed such complaints.

24 “(b) NOTICE OF OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL DE-
25 TERMINATIONS.—Not later than 30 days after the date on

1 *which the Secretary receives from the Special Counsel infor-*
 2 *mation relating to a whistleblower complaint pursuant to*
 3 *section 1213 of title 5, the Secretary shall notify the Com-*
 4 *mittees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives*
 5 *and the Senate, the Committee on Oversight and Govern-*
 6 *ment Reform of the House of Representatives, and the Com-*
 7 *mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of*
 8 *the Senate of such information, including the determination*
 9 *made by the Special Counsel.”.*

10 (b) *CONFORMING AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—*

11 (1) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Such chapter is*
 12 *further amended by inserting before section 701 the*
 13 *following:*

14 “*SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL EMPLOYEE*
 15 *MATTERS”.*

16 (2) *CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of sec-*
 17 *tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended—*

18 (A) *by inserting before the item relating to*
 19 *section 701 the following new item:*

“*SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL EMPLOYEE MATTERS”;*

20 *and*

21 (B) *by adding at the end the following new*
 22 *items:*

“*SUBCHAPTER II—WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINTS*

“731. *Whistleblower complaint defined.*

“732. *Treatment of whistleblower complaints.*

“733. *Adverse actions against supervisory employees who commit prohibited per-*
sonnel actions relating to whistleblower complaints.

“734. Evaluation criteria of supervisors and treatment of bonuses.

“735. Training regarding whistleblower complaints.

“736. Reports to Congress.”.

1 **SEC. 5. REFORM OF PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL SYSTEM**
 2 **FOR SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE EMPLOY-**
 3 **EES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
 4 **FAIRS.**

5 *(a) PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL SYSTEM.—*

6 *(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 38, United*
 7 *States Code, is further amended by inserting after sec-*
 8 *tion 717, as added by section 3, the following new sec-*
 9 *tion:*

10 **“§ 719. Senior executives: performance appraisal**

11 *“(a) PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL SYSTEM.—(1) The*
 12 *performance appraisal system for individuals employed in*
 13 *senior executive positions in the Department required by*
 14 *section 4312 of title 5 shall provide, in addition to the re-*
 15 *quirements of such section, for five annual summary rat-*
 16 *ings of levels of performance as follows:*

17 *“(A) One outstanding level.*

18 *“(B) One exceeds fully successful level.*

19 *“(C) One fully successful level.*

20 *“(D) One minimally satisfactory level.*

21 *“(E) One unsatisfactory level.*

22 *“(2) The following limitations apply to the rating of*
 23 *the performance of such individuals:*

1 “(A) For any year, not more than 10 percent of
2 such individuals who receive a performance rating
3 during that year may receive the outstanding level
4 under paragraph (1)(A).

5 “(B) For any year, not more than 20 percent of
6 such individuals who receive a performance rating
7 during that year may receive the exceeds fully success-
8 ful level under paragraph (1)(B).

9 “(3) In evaluating the performance of an individual
10 under the performance appraisal system, the Secretary shall
11 take into consideration—

12 “(A) any complaint or report (including any
13 pending or published report) submitted by the Inspec-
14 tor General of the Department, the Comptroller Gen-
15 eral of the United States, the Equal Employment Op-
16 portunity Commission, or any other appropriate per-
17 son or entity, related to any facility or program man-
18 aged by the individual, as determined by the Sec-
19 retary;

20 “(B) efforts made by the individual to maintain
21 high levels of satisfaction and commitment among the
22 employees supervised by the individual; and

23 “(C) the criteria described in section 734(a)(2) of
24 this title.

1 “(b) *CHANGE OF POSITION.*—(1) *At least once every*
2 *five years, the Secretary shall reassign each individual em-*
3 *ployed in a senior executive position to a position at a dif-*
4 *ferent location that does not include the supervision of the*
5 *same personnel or programs. The Secretary shall make such*
6 *reassignments on a rolling basis based on the date on which*
7 *an individual was originally assigned to a position.*

8 “(2) *The Secretary may waive the requirement under*
9 *paragraph (1) for any such individual, if the Secretary sub-*
10 *mits to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate*
11 *and House of Representatives notice of the waiver and an*
12 *explanation of the reasons for the waiver.*

13 “(c) *REPORT.*—*Not later than March 1 of each year,*
14 *the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’*
15 *Affairs and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs*
16 *of the Senate and the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs and*
17 *Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Rep-*
18 *resentatives a report on the performance appraisal system*
19 *of the Department under subsection (a). Each such report*
20 *shall include, for the year preceding the year during which*
21 *the report is submitted, each of the following:*

22 “(1) *All documentation concerning each of the*
23 *following for each individual employed in a senior ex-*
24 *ecutive position in the Department:*

25 “(A) *The initial performance appraisal.*

1 “(B) *The higher level review, if requested.*

2 “(C) *The recommendations of the perform-*
3 *ance review board.*

4 “(D) *The final summary review.*

5 “(E) *The number of initial performance*
6 *ratings raised as a result of the recommendations*
7 *of the performance review board.*

8 “(F) *The number of initial performance*
9 *ratings lowered as a result of the recommenda-*
10 *tions of the performance review board.*

11 “(G) *Any adverse action taken against any*
12 *such individual who receives a performance rat-*
13 *ing of less than fully successful.*

14 “(2) *The review of the Inspector General of the*
15 *Department of the information described in subpara-*
16 *graphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (1).*

17 “(3) *A summary of the documentation provided*
18 *under paragraph (1).*

19 “(d) *DEFINITION OF SENIOR EXECUTIVE POSITION.—*
20 *In this section, the term ‘senior executive position’ has the*
21 *meaning given that term in section 713(g)(3) of this title.”.*

22 “(2) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-*
23 *tions at the beginning of such chapter, as amended by*
24 *section 3, is further amended by inserting after the*
25 *item relating to section 717 the following new item:*

“719. Senior executives: performance appraisal.”.

1 (3) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.*—Section 4312(b)
2 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

3 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at
4 the end;

5 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period
6 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

7 (C) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(4) that, in the case of the Department of Vet-
9 erans Affairs, the performance appraisal system meets
10 the requirements of section 719 of title 38.”.

11 (b) *REVIEW OF SES MANAGEMENT TRAINING.*—

12 (1) *REVIEW.*—Not later than 180 days after the
13 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
14 erans Affairs shall enter into a contract with a non-
15 governmental entity to review the management train-
16 ing program for individuals employed in senior exec-
17 utive positions (as such term is defined in section
18 713(g)(3) of title 38, United States Code) of the De-
19 partment of Veterans Affairs that is being provided as
20 of the date of the enactment of this Act. Such review
21 shall include a comparison of the training provided
22 by the Department of Veterans Affairs to the manage-
23 ment training provided for senior executives of other
24 Federal departments and agencies and to the manage-
25 ment training provided to senior executives in the

1 *private sector. The contract shall provide that the*
2 *nongovernmental entity must complete and submit to*
3 *the Secretary a report containing the findings and*
4 *conclusions of the review by not later than 180 days*
5 *after the date on which the Secretary and the non-*
6 *governmental entity enter into the contract.*

7 (2) *REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 60*
8 *days after the date on which the Secretary receives the*
9 *report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall sub-*
10 *mit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Sen-*
11 *ate and House of Representatives the report together*
12 *with a plan for carrying out the recommendations*
13 *contained in the report.*

14 **SEC. 6. REDUCTION OF BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS OF THE**
15 **SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE WITHIN THE DE-**
16 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CON-**
17 **VICTED OF CERTAIN CRIMES.**

18 (a) *REDUCTION OF BENEFITS.—*

19 (1) *IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 38, United*
20 *States Code, is further amended by inserting after sec-*
21 *tion 719, as added by section 5, the following new sec-*
22 *tion:*

1 **“§ 721. Senior executives: reduction of benefits of indi-**
2 **viduals convicted of certain crimes**

3 “(a) *REDUCTION OF ANNUITY FOR REMOVED EM-*
4 *PLOYEE.—The Secretary shall order that the covered service*
5 *of an individual removed from a senior executive position*
6 *under section 713 of this title shall not be taken into ac-*
7 *count for purposes of calculating an annuity with respect*
8 *to such individual under chapter 83 or chapter 84 of title*
9 *5, if—*

10 “(1) *the individual is convicted of a felony that*
11 *influenced the individual’s performance while em-*
12 *ployed in the senior executive position; and*

13 “(2) *before such order is made, the individual is*
14 *afforded notice and an opportunity for a hearing con-*
15 *ducted by another department or agency of the Fed-*
16 *eral Government.*

17 “(b) *REDUCTION OF ANNUITY FOR RETIRED EM-*
18 *PLOYEE.—(1) The Secretary may order that the covered*
19 *service of an individual who is subject to a removal or*
20 *transfer action under section 713 of this title but who leaves*
21 *employment at the Department prior to the issuance of a*
22 *final decision with respect to such action shall not be taken*
23 *into account for purposes of calculating an annuity with*
24 *respect to such individual under chapter 83 or chapter 84*
25 *of title 5, if—*

1 “(A) *the individual is convicted of a felony that*
2 *influenced the individual’s performance while em-*
3 *ployed in the senior executive position; and*

4 “(B) *before such order is made, the individual is*
5 *afforded notice and an opportunity for a hearing con-*
6 *ducted by another department or agency of the Fed-*
7 *eral Government.*

8 “(2) *The Secretary shall make such an order not later*
9 *than seven days after the date of the conclusion of a hearing*
10 *referred to in paragraph (1)(B) that determines that such*
11 *order is lawful.*

12 “(c) *ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS.—(1) Not later*
13 *than 30 days after the Secretary issues an order under sub-*
14 *section (a) or (b), the Director of the Office of Personnel*
15 *Management shall recalculate the annuity of the individual.*

16 “(2) *A decision regarding whether the covered service*
17 *of an individual shall be taken into account for purposes*
18 *of calculating an annuity under subsection (a) or (b) is*
19 *final and may not be reviewed by any department or agen-*
20 *cy or any court.*

21 “(d) *LUMP-SUM ANNUITY CREDIT.—Any individual*
22 *with respect to whom an annuity is reduced under sub-*
23 *section (a) or (b) shall be entitled to be paid so much of*
24 *such individual’s lump-sum credit as is attributable to the*
25 *period of covered service.*

1 “(e) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this section:*

2 “(1) *The term ‘covered service’ means, with re-*
3 *spect to an individual subject to a removal or transfer*
4 *action under section 713 of this title, the period of*
5 *service beginning on the date that the Secretary deter-*
6 *mines under such section that such individual en-*
7 *gaged in activity that gave rise to such action and*
8 *ending on the date that such individual is removed*
9 *from the civil service or leaves employment at the De-*
10 *partment prior to the issuance of a final decision*
11 *with respect to such action, as the case may be.*

12 “(2) *The term ‘lump-sum credit’ has the mean-*
13 *ing given such term in section 8331(8) or section*
14 *8401(19) of title 5, as the case may be.*

15 “(3) *The term ‘senior executive position’ has the*
16 *meaning given such term in section 713(g)(3) of this*
17 *title.*

18 “(4) *The term ‘service’ has the meaning given*
19 *such term in section 8331(12) or section 8401(26) of*
20 *title 5, as the case may be.”.*

21 “(2) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—*The table of sec-*
22 *tions at the beginning of chapter 7 of such title is*
23 *amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-*
24 *tion 719, as added by section 5, the following new*
25 *item:*

“721. *Senior executives: reduction of benefits of individuals convicted of certain crimes.*”.

1 (b) *APPLICATION.*—Section 721 of title 38, United
2 States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), shall apply to
3 any action of removal or transfer under section 713 of title
4 38, United States Code, commencing on or after the date
5 of the enactment of this Act.

6 **SEC. 7. LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE FOR EM-**
7 **PLOYEES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
8 **FAIRS.**

9 (a) *LIMITATION.*—

10 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Chapter 7 of title 38, United
11 States Code, is further amended by inserting after sec-
12 tion 721, as added by section 6, the following new sec-
13 tion:

14 **“§ 723. Limitation on administrative leave**

15 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Except as provided in subsection
16 (b), the Secretary may not place any covered individual
17 on administrative leave, or any other type of paid non-duty
18 status without charge to leave, for more than a total of 14
19 days during any 365-day period.

20 “(b) *WAIVER.*—The Secretary may waive the limita-
21 tion under subsection (a) and extend the administrative
22 leave or other paid non-duty status without charge to leave
23 of a covered individual placed on such leave or status under
24 subsection (a) if the Secretary submits to the Committees

1 *on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives a detailed explanation of the reasons the individual*
3 *was placed on administrative leave or other paid non-duty*
4 *status without charge to leave and the reasons for the exten-*
5 *sion of such leave or status. Such explanation shall include*
6 *the name of the covered individual, the location where the*
7 *individual is employed, and the individual's job title.*

8 “(c) *COVERED INDIVIDUAL.*—*In this subsection, the*
9 *term ‘covered individual’ means an employee of the Depart-*
10 *ment—*

11 “(1) *who is subject to an investigation for pur-*
12 *poses of determining whether such individual should*
13 *be subject to any disciplinary action under this title*
14 *or title 5; or*

15 “(2) *against whom any disciplinary action is*
16 *proposed or initiated under this title or title 5.”.*

17 “(2) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—*The table of sec-*
18 *tions at the beginning of such chapter, as amended by*
19 *section 6, is further amended by inserting after the*
20 *item relating to section 721 the following new item:*

“723. Limitation on administrative leave.”.

21 “(b) *APPLICATION.*—*Section 723 of title 38, United*
22 *States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), shall apply with*
23 *respect to any 365-day period beginning on or after the date*
24 *of enactment of this Act.*

1 **SEC. 8. TREATMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY BY**
2 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EM-**
3 **PLOYEES AS OFFICIAL DUTY.**

4 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Chapter 7 of title 38, United States
5 Code, is further amended by inserting after section 723, as
6 added by section 7, the following new section:

7 **“§ 725. Congressional testimony by employees: treat-**
8 **ment as official duty**

9 “(a) *CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY.*—An employee of
10 the Department is performing official duty during the pe-
11 riod with respect to which the employee is testifying in an
12 official capacity in front of either House of Congress, a com-
13 mittee of either House of Congress, or a joint or select com-
14 mittee of Congress.

15 “(b) *TRAVEL EXPENSES.*—The Secretary shall provide
16 travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence,
17 in accordance with applicable provisions under subchapter
18 I of chapter 57 of title 5, to any employee of the Department
19 of Veterans Affairs performing official duty described under
20 subsection (a).”.

21 (b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—The table of sections at
22 the beginning of such chapter is further amended by insert-
23 ing after the item relating to section 723, as added by sec-
24 tion 7, the following new item:

“725. Congressional testimony by employees: treatment as official duty.”.

1 **SEC. 9. LIMITATION ON AWARDS AND BONUSES PAID TO**
 2 **EMPLOYEES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
 3 **AFFAIRS.**

4 *Section 705 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Ac-*
 5 *countability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–146; 38 U.S.C.*
 6 *703 note) is amended to read as follows:*

7 **“SEC. 705. LIMITATION ON AWARDS AND BONUSES PAID TO**
 8 **EMPLOYEES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
 9 **AFFAIRS.**

10 *“The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that*
 11 *the aggregate amount of awards and bonuses paid by the*
 12 *Secretary in a fiscal year under chapter 45 or 53 of title*
 13 *5, United States Code, or any other awards or bonuses au-*
 14 *thorized under such title or title 38, United States Code,*
 15 *does not exceed the following amounts:*

16 *“(1) With respect to each of fiscal years 2015*
 17 *through 2018, \$300,000,000.*

18 *“(2) With respect to each of fiscal years 2019*
 19 *through 2024, \$360,000,000.”.*

20 **SEC. 10. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY OF DEPARTMENT**
 21 **TIME AND SPACE USED FOR LABOR ORGANI-**
 22 **ZATION ACTIVITY.**

23 *(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after*
 24 *the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller Gen-*
 25 *eral of the United States shall conduct a study on the*
 26 *amount of time spent by Department of Veterans Affairs*

1 *employees carrying out organizing activities relating to*
2 *labor organizations and the amount of space in Department*
3 *facilities used for such activities. The study shall include*
4 *a cost-benefit analysis of the use of such time and space*
5 *for such activities.*

6 **(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—*Not later than 90 days*
7 *after the completion of the study required under subsection*
8 *(a), the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committees*
9 *on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representa-*
10 *tives a report on the results of the study.*

Union Calendar No. 170

114TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

H. R. 1994

[Report No. 114-225, Part I]

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal or denotion of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs based on performance or misconduct, and for other purposes.

JULY 23, 2015

Reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs with
an amendment

JULY 23, 2015

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed