

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1266

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with nonprofit organizations to investigate medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 25, 2017

Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with nonprofit organizations to investigate medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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 “Enhancing Veteran
5 Care Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. INVESTIGATION OF MEDICAL CENTERS OF THE DE-**
7 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
9 may contract with a nonprofit organization that accredits

1 health care organizations and programs in the United
2 States to investigate a medical center of the Department
3 of Veterans Affairs to assess and report deficiencies of the
4 facilities at such medical center.

5 (b) AUTHORITY OF DIRECTORS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to coordination
7 under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall delegate
8 the authority under subsection (a) to contract for an
9 investigation at a medical center of the Department
10 to the Director of the Veterans Integrated Service
11 Network in which the medical center is located or
12 the director of such medical center.

13 (2) COORDINATION.—Before entering into a
14 contract under paragraph (1), the Director of a Vet-
15 erans Integrated Service Network or the director of
16 a medical center, as the case may be, shall notify the
17 Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Inspector General
18 of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the
19 Comptroller General of the United States for pur-
20 poses of coordinating any investigation conducted
21 pursuant to such contract with any other investiga-
22 tions that may be ongoing.

23 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
24 tion may be construed—

1 (1) to prevent the Office of the Inspector Gen-
2 eral of the Department of Veterans Affairs from
3 conducting any review, audit, evaluation, or inspec-
4 tion regarding a topic for which an investigation is
5 conducted under this section; or

6 (2) to modify the requirement that employees of
7 the Department assist with any review, audit, eval-
8 uation, or inspection conducted by the Office of the
9 Inspector General of the Department.

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