

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2656

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to report biennially on actions taken to address areas of concern that led to the inclusion of veterans health care in the High Risk List of the Government Accountability Office, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 12, 2018

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

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to report biennially on actions taken to address areas of concern that led to the inclusion of veterans health care in the High Risk List of the Government Accountability Office, 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 “Department of Vet-
5 erans Affairs Oversight Enhancement Act of 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. BIENNIAL REPORT BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS**
2 **AFFAIRS ON ACTIONS TAKEN TO ADDRESS**
3 **AREAS OF CONCERN THAT LED TO INCLU-**
4 **SION OF VETERANS HEALTH CARE IN THE**
5 **HIGH RISK LIST OF THE GOVERNMENT AC-**
6 **COUNTABILITY OFFICE.**

7 (a) BIENNIAL REPORT REQUIRED.—No later than
8 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and
9 in each session of Congress thereafter in which the High
10 Risk List of the Government Accountability Office pub-
11 lished in that session includes health care furnished under
12 laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
13 the Secretary shall submit to Congress, the appropriate
14 committees of Congress, and the Comptroller General of
15 the United States a report on the actions taken by the
16 Secretary and the progress made by the Secretary in im-
17 plementing the High Risk Action Plan of the Department
18 of Veterans Affairs to address the areas of concern that
19 led to the designation of such health care as high risk by
20 the Comptroller General in the most recently published
21 High Risk List.

22 (b) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under sub-
23 section (a) shall include, for the period covered by the pe-
24 riod, the following:

25 (1) The corrective measures and specific steps
26 necessary for addressing root causes identified in the

1 High Risk Action Plan for removal from the high-
2 risk designation, including the progress of the Sec-
3 retary in implementing those measures and steps.

4 The specific measures and steps shall—

5 (A) address each root cause;

6 (B) identify resources to implement correc-
7 tive actions, including funding, stakeholders,
8 technology, and the senior officials responsible
9 for implementing the corrective actions and re-
10 porting results;

11 (C) identify metrics that can be used to as-
12 sess progress and assign responsibility for
13 tracking progress, including the mechanism
14 that will be used to keep senior leadership in-
15 formed about progress made or challenges en-
16 countered;

17 (D) list key outcomes and goals that dem-
18 onstrate progress in addressing the concerns;
19 and

20 (E) establish timeframes with overall and
21 interim milestones.

22 (2) The progress of the Secretary in addressing
23 the five criteria for removal from the High Risk List
24 for each of the areas of concern identified by the
25 Comptroller General.

1 (3) An explanation and course of action for
2 each failure to fully adopt the Comptroller General's
3 criteria for removal from the High Risk list.

4 **SEC. 3. ANNUAL REPORT BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AF-**
5 **FAIRS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN**
6 **RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMPTROLLER GEN-**
7 **ERAL OF THE UNITED STATES PERTAINING**
8 **TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

9 (a) ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED.—No later than 120
10 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and not
11 less frequently than once each year thereafter, the Sec-
12 retary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress, the
13 appropriate committees of Congress, and to the Comp-
14 troller General of the United States a report on implemen-
15 tation of recommendations of the Comptroller General
16 that pertain to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

17 (b) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under sub-
18 section (a) shall include, for the period covered by the re-
19 port, the following:

20 (1) The progress of the Secretary in imple-
21 menting all open priority recommendations of the
22 Comptroller General for the Department of Veterans
23 Affairs.

24 (2) An explanation for each instance where the
25 Secretary has decided not to implement, or has not

1 fully implemented, an open priority recommendation
2 of the Comptroller General for the Department.

3 (3) Courses of action for the Secretary to im-
4 plement open priority recommendations of the
5 Comptroller General, including—

6 (A) resources to implement corrective ac-
7 tions, including funding, stakeholders, tech-
8 nology, and the senior officials responsible for
9 implementing the corrective actions and report-
10 ing results;

11 (B) metrics that can be used to assess
12 progress and assign responsibility for tracking
13 progress, including the mechanism that will be
14 used to keep senior leadership informed about
15 progress made or challenges encountered;

16 (C) key outcomes and goals that dem-
17 onstrate progress in addressing the concerns;
18 and

19 (D) timeframes with overall and interim
20 milestones.

21 (c) SUPPLEMENT AND NOT SUPPLANT CURRENT RE-
22 PORT REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements of this section
23 shall supplement and not supplant the requirements of
24 section 720 of title 31, United States Code.

1 **SEC. 4. REPORT BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE**
2 **UNITED STATES ON ACTIONS TAKEN BY SEC-**
3 **RETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO ADDRESS**
4 **AREAS OF CONCERN THAT LED TO INCLU-**
5 **SION OF VETERANS HEALTH CARE IN THE**
6 **2017 HIGH RISK LIST OF THE GOVERNMENT**
7 **ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE.**

8 (a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—No later than one year
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comp-
10 troller General of the United States shall submit to Con-
11 gress and the appropriate committees of Congress a report
12 on the implementation, the actions taken, and the progress
13 made by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in imple-
14 menting the High Risk Action Plan of the Department
15 of Veterans Affairs to address the areas of concern that
16 led to the designation of health care furnished under laws
17 administered by the Secretary as high risk by the Comp-
18 troller General in the High Risk List published by the
19 Comptroller General in 2017.

20 (b) **CONTENTS.**—The report submitted under para-
21 graph (1) shall include the following:

22 (1) An evaluation of the progress of the Sec-
23 retary in implementing corrective measures and spe-
24 cific steps for addressing root causes identified in
25 the High Risk Action Plan for removal of veterans
26 health care from the High Risk List.

1 (2) An evaluation of the progress of the Sec-
2 retary in addressing the five criteria for removal
3 from the High Risk List for each of the areas of
4 concern identified by the Comptroller General.

5 (3) An evaluation of the Secretary's expla-
6 nations and courses of action for each failure to fully
7 adopt the Comptroller General's criteria for removal
8 from the High Risk List.

9 **SEC. 5. APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DE-**
10 **FINED.**

11 In this Act, the term "appropriate committees of
12 Congress" means the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of
13 the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the
14 House of Representatives.

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