H. R. 4477

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 13, 2019

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a plan to address certain high risk areas identified by the Comptroller General of the United States regarding the Department of Veterans Affairs in the 2019 High-Risk List of the Government Accountability Office, and for other purposes.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Reducing High Risk
to Veterans and Veterans Services Act”.

SEC. 2. REPORT AND PLANNED ACTIONS OF THE SEC-
RETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO ADDRESS
CERTAIN HIGH-RISK AREAS OF THE DEPART-
MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) Report Required.—Not later than 180 days
after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Comptroller
General of the United States, shall submit to the Commit-
tees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Rep-
resentatives a report outlining the plan the Secretary has
developed and the actions the Secretary has taken to ad-
dress the areas of concern identified by the Comptroller
General for the Department of Veterans Affairs in the
2019 High-Risk List of the Government Accountability
Office (GAO–19–157SP) regarding—

(1) acquisition management; and

(2) managing risks and improving health care.

(b) Elements.—The report under subsection (a)
shall include each of the following:
(1) Root causes of the areas of concern described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).

(2) Corrective actions and specific steps to address each root cause, including—

(A) the progress of the Secretary in implementing those actions and steps; and

(B) timelines and milestones the Secretary determines feasible to complete each corrective action.

(3) Resources the Secretary determines are necessary to implement corrective actions, including—

(A) funding;

(B) stakeholders;

(C) technology; and

(D) senior officials responsible for implementing the corrective actions and reporting results.

(4) Metrics for assessing progress in addressing the areas of concern described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).

(5) Key outcomes that demonstrate progress in addressing the areas of concern described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).

(6) Obstacles to implementation of the plan that the Secretary identifies.
(7) Recommendations of the Secretary regarding legislation or funding the Secretary determines necessary to implement the plan.

(8) Any other information the Secretary determines is relevant to understanding the progress of the Department toward the removal of the areas of concern from the High Risk List.

(c) ANNUAL UPDATES.—

(1) UPDATE REQUIRED.—Not less than once each year during the implementation period under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall submit to Congress an update regarding implementation of each element of the plan under subsection (b).

(2) IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD.—The implementation period described in this paragraph begins on the date on which the Secretary submits the report required under subsection (a) and ends on the earlier of the following dates:

(A) The date on which the Comptroller General removes the last area of concern for the Department from the most recent High-Risk List of the Government Accountability Office.
(B) The date that is 8 years after the date on which the Secretary submits the plan required under subsection (a).

SEC. 3. ANNUAL REPORT BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES PERTAINING TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) Annual Report Required.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less than once during each of the subsequent 3 years, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives and to the Comptroller General of the United States a report on the implementation of priority recommendations of the Comptroller General that pertain to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) Contents.—Each report submitted under subsection (a) shall include, for the period covered by the report, the following:

(1) The progress of the Secretary in implementing all open priority recommendations of the Comptroller General for the Department of Veterans Affairs.
(2) An explanation for each instance where the Secretary has decided not to implement, or has not fully implemented, an open priority recommendation of the Comptroller General for the Department.

(3) A summary of the corrective actions taken and remaining steps the Secretary plans to take to implement open priority recommendations of the Comptroller General.

(e) Supplement Not Supplant Certain Required Reports or Written Statements.—The report under this section shall not be construed to supplant any report or written statement required under section 720 of title 31, United States Code.

Passed the House of Representatives November 12, 2019.

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.