

116<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4477

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 13, 2019

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

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## 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.

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 “Reducing High Risk  
5 to Veterans and Veterans Services Act”.

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

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

21 (1) acquisition management; and

22 (2) managing risks and improving health care.

23 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report under subsection (a)  
24 shall include each of the following:

1           (1) Root causes of the areas of concern de-  
2           scribed in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).

3           (2) Corrective actions and specific steps to ad-  
4           dress each root cause, including—

5                   (A) the progress of the Secretary in imple-  
6                   menting those actions and steps; and

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

10          (3) Resources the Secretary determines are nec-  
11          essary to implement corrective actions, including—

12                   (A) funding;

13                   (B) stakeholders;

14                   (C) technology; and

15                   (D) senior officials responsible for imple-  
16                   menting the corrective actions and reporting re-  
17                   sults.

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

21          (5) Key outcomes that demonstrate progress in  
22          addressing the areas of concern described in para-  
23          graphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).

24          (6) Obstacles to implementation of the plan  
25          that the Secretary identifies.

1           (7) Recommendations of the Secretary regard-  
2           ing legislation or funding the Secretary determines  
3           necessary to implement the plan.

4           (8) Any other information the Secretary deter-  
5           mines is relevant to understanding the progress of  
6           the Department toward the removal of the areas of  
7           concern from the High Risk List.

8           (c) ANNUAL UPDATES.—

9           (1) UPDATE REQUIRED.—Not less than once  
10          each year during the implementation period under  
11          paragraph (2), the Secretary shall submit to Con-  
12          gress an update regarding implementation of each  
13          element of the plan under subsection (b).

14          (2) IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD.—The implemen-  
15          tation period described in this paragraph begins on  
16          the date on which the Secretary submits the report  
17          required under subsection (a) and ends on the ear-  
18          lier of the following dates:

19                 (A) The date on which the Comptroller  
20                 General removes the last area of concern for  
21                 the Department from the most recent High-  
22                 Risk List of the Government Accountability Of-  
23                 fice.

1           (B) The date that is 8 years after the date  
2           on which the Secretary submits the plan re-  
3           quired under subsection (a).

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

9           (a) ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than  
10 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and  
11 not less than once during each of the subsequent 3 years,  
12 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Com-  
13 mittees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of  
14 Representatives and to the Comptroller General of the  
15 United States a report on the implementation of priority  
16 recommendations of the Comptroller General that pertain  
17 to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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

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

1 (2) An explanation for each instance where the  
2 Secretary has decided not to implement, or has not  
3 fully implemented, an open priority recommendation  
4 of the Comptroller General for the Department.

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

9 (c) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT CERTAIN RE-  
10 QUIRED REPORTS OR WRITTEN STATEMENTS.—The re-  
11 port under this section shall not be construed to supplant  
12 any report or written statement required under section  
13 720 of title 31, United States Code.

Passed the House of Representatives November 12,  
2019.

Attest:

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,

*Clerk.*