

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6589

AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and submit to Congress a plan to address the material weakness of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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,*

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Department of Veter-
3 ans Affairs Chief Financial Officer Authority and Col-
4 laboration Act of 2020”.

5 SEC. 2. PLANS FOR ADDRESSING MATERIAL WEAKNESSES
6 AND PROVIDING SUFFICIENT AUTHORITY TO
7 CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF DEPARTMENT
8 OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

9 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
10 ment of this Act, and annually thereafter for each of the
11 three subsequent years, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
12 acting through the Chief Financial Officer of the Depart-
13 ment of Veterans Affairs, shall submit to the appropriate
14 congressional committees—

24 (2) a plan outlining the steps the Secretary
25 plans to take to address the recommendations of
26 auditors related to entity-level internal controls and

1 to provide sufficient authority to the Chief Financial
2 Officer of the Department to carry out the require-
3 ments of section 902 of title 31, United States Code.

4 **SEC. 3. CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER ATTESTATION.**

5 Concurrent with the submittal to Congress of the
6 President's budget request under section 1105 of title 31,
7 United States Code, for fiscal year 2022 and each of the
8 next three subsequent fiscal years, the Chief Financial Of-
9 ficer of the Department of Veterans affairs shall submit
10 to the appropriate congressional committees each of the
11 following:

12 (1) A certification of the responsibility of the
13 Chief Financial Officer for internal financial controls
14 of the Department.

15 (2) An attestation that the Chief Financial Of-
16 ficer has collaborated sufficiently with the subordi-
17 nate chief financial officers of the Department to be
18 confident in the financial projections included the
19 budget request and supporting materials.

20 **SEC. 4. CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER RESPONSIBILITY FOR**
21 **SUBORDINATE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the respon-
23 sibilities of the Chief Financial Officer of the Department
24 of Veterans Affairs for the recruitment, selection, and
25 training of personnel to carry out agency financial man-

1 agement functions pursuant to section 902(a)(5)(C) of
2 title 31, United States Code, the Chief Financial Officer
3 or the designee of the Chief Financial Officer within the
4 Office of Management of the Department shall—

5 (1) participate in the interview and selection
6 panels of all subordinate chief financial officers; and

10 (b) TERMINATION.—The requirements under sub-
11 section (a) shall terminate on the date that is five years
12 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

13 SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

14 In this Act:

20 (2) The term "subordinate chief financial offi-
21 cer"—

22 (A) includes—

23 (i) the chief financial officer of the
24 Veterans Health Administration, the chief
25 financial officer of the Office of Commu-

6 (ii) the chief financial officer of the
7 Veterans Benefits Administration and all
8 chief financial officers of organizational
9 subdivisions representing business lines
10 within the Veterans Benefits Administra-
11 tion;

12 (iii) the chief financial officer of the
13 National Cemetery Administration; and

14 (iv) the chief financial officer of the
15 Office of Information and Technology; and

16 (B) does not include the Inspector General.

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Attest:

Clerk.

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