

Calendar No. 425

116TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 3110

To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disability and pension benefits provided to members of the National Guard and members of reserve components of the Armed Forces by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 19, 2019

Mr. TILLIS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Reported by Mr. MORAN, without amendment

A BILL

To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disability and pension benefits provided to members of the National Guard and members of reserve components of the Armed Forces by 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 “Identifying Barriers
3 and Best Practices Study Act of 2019”.

4 **SEC. 2. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY ON DISABILITY**
5 **AND PENSION BENEFITS PROVIDED TO MEM-**
6 **BERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND MEM-**
7 **BERS OF RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE**
8 **ARMED FORCES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF**
9 **VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

10 (a) **STUDY REQUIRED.**—Not later than 36 months
11 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comp-
12 troller General of the United States shall complete a study
13 on disability and pension benefits provided to members of
14 the National Guard and members of reserve components
15 of the Armed Forces by the Department of Veterans Af-
16 fairs.

17 (b) **ELEMENTS.**—In conducting such study required
18 by subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall review,
19 for the period beginning on January 1, 2008, and ending
20 on December 31, 2018, each of the following:

21 (1) The number of members of the National
22 Guard and the number of members of reserve com-
23 ponents of the Armed Forces who received disability
24 compensation or pension provided by the Depart-
25 ment of Veterans Affairs.

(2) A comparison of each of the following between veterans who served in the National Guard or reserve components and veterans who served in the regular components of the Armed Forces:

(A) The percentage of each group of such veterans with service-connected disabilities.

(B) The number of veterans in each group with each disability rating.

(C) The number of veterans in each group with a service-connected disability, including the number of each of the following types of such veterans in each group:

(i) Pilots.

(ii) Veterans who served in the special forces.

(iii) Veterans who participated in the Personnel Reliability Program.

(iv) Veterans who underwent diving or flight physicals as a regular component of their service in the Armed Forces and who have a muscular-skeletal or mental health condition.

(D) The number of total claims for disability compensation and pension submitted, ap-

1 proved, and disapproved for each group of vet-
2 erans.

3 (3) An identification of common barriers for
4 members of the National Guard and members of re-
5 serve components in obtaining disability benefits
6 under the laws administered by the Secretary of Vet-
7 erans Affairs, including barriers relating to docu-
8 mentation of injuries incurred while serving, such as
9 line of duty letters.

10 (c) REPORTS.—

11 (1) PRELIMINARY REPORT.—Not later than
12 540 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
13 the Comptroller General shall submit to the Com-
14 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the
15 Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of
16 Representatives a preliminary report on the findings
17 of the Comptroller General with respect to the study
18 required by subsection (a).

19 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Upon completion of the
20 study, the Comptroller General shall submit to such
21 committees a final report on such study.

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