

116TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 3458

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 12, 2020

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

A BILL

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 of 2020”.

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

5 (a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
7 of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Comptroller
8 General of the United States, shall submit to the Com-
9 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Com-
10 mittee on Veterans Affairs of the House of Representa-
11 tives a report outlining the plan the Secretary has devel-
12 oped and the actions the Secretary has taken to address
13 the areas of concern identified by the Comptroller General
14 for the Department of Veterans Affairs in the 2019 High-
15 Risk List of the Government Accountability Office (GAO-
16 19-157SP) regarding—

17 (1) acquisition management; and

18 (2) managing risks and improving health care.

19 (b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report under subsection (a)
20 shall include each of the following:

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

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

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

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

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

6 (A) funding;

7 (B) stakeholders;

8 (C) technology; and

9 (D) senior officials responsible for imple-
10 menting the corrective actions and reporting re-
11 sults.

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

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

18 (6) Obstacles to implementation of the plan
19 that the Secretary identifies.

20 (7) Recommendations of the Secretary regard-
21 ing legislation or funding the Secretary determines
22 necessary to implement the plan.

23 (8) Any other information the Secretary deter-
24 mines is relevant to understanding the progress of

1 the Department toward the removal of the areas of
2 concern from the High Risk List.

3 (c) ANNUAL UPDATES.—

4 (1) UPDATE REQUIRED.—Not less than once
5 each year during the implementation period under
6 paragraph (2), the Secretary shall submit to Con-
7 gress an update regarding implementation of each
8 element of the plan under subsection (b).

9 (2) IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD.—The implemen-
10 tation period described in this paragraph begins on
11 the date on which the Secretary submits the report
12 required under subsection (a) and ends on the ear-
13 lier of the following dates:

14 (A) The date on which the Comptroller
15 General removes the last area of concern for
16 the Department from the most recent High-
17 Risk List of the Government Accountability Of-
18 fice.

19 (B) The date that is 8 years after the date
20 on which the Secretary submits the plan re-
21 quired under subsection (a).

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

6 (a) ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than
7 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and
8 not less than once during each of the subsequent three
9 years, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to
10 the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the
11 Committee on Veterans Affairs of the House of Represent-
12 atives and to the Comptroller General of the United States
13 a report on the implementation of priority recommenda-
14 tions of the Comptroller General that pertain to the De-
15 partment of Veterans Affairs.

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

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

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

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

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

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