

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6064

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 19 (legislative day, MAY 17), 2022

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

AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine for a review of examinations, furnished by the Secretary, to individuals who submit claims to the Secretary for compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, for mental and physical conditions linked to military sexual trauma.

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. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF ASSESSMENTS BY**
4 **THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF**
5 **MENTAL AND PHYSICAL CONDITIONS LINKED**
6 **TO MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA FOR PUR-**
7 **POSES OF AWARDED DISABILITY COM-**
8 **PENSATION.**

9 (a) AGREEMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the
10 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
11 erans Affairs shall seek to enter into an agreement with
12 the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and
13 Medicine (in this Act referred to as the “National Acad-
14 emies”) to perform the services covered by this section.

15 (b) COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW.—Under an agreement
16 between the Secretary and the National Academies under
17 this section, the National Academies shall conduct a com-
18 prehensive review of examinations, furnished by the Sec-
19 retary to individuals who submit claims to the Secretary
20 for compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United
21 States Code, for mental and physical conditions linked to
22 military sexual trauma (in this Act referred to as “MST”),
23 for the purpose of assessing the impairments of such indi-
24 viduals arising from MST. The review carried out pursu-
25 ant to paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

1 (1) A determination of the adequacy of tools
2 and protocols used by the Secretary to provide ex-
3 aminations described in this subsection, including—

4 (A) the Disability Benefits Questionnaires;

5 (B) the Department’s schedule of rating
6 disabilities;

7 (C) consideration of whether certain condi-
8 tions linked to MST should require referral for
9 both a mental health examination and a phys-
10 ical health examination; and

11 (D) the necessity of internal pelvic exami-
12 nations to diagnose certain conditions linked to
13 MST, and whether alternatives to such exami-
14 nations could be considered if a veteran objects
15 to or cannot complete such examination.

16 (2) A determination of what credentials and
17 training are necessary for a health care specialist or
18 provider to perform such examinations related to
19 physical conditions linked to MST, for men and for
20 women, including—

21 (A) sexual dysfunction;

22 (B) pelvic pain;

23 (C) pelvic dysfunction;

24 (D) musculoskeletal disabilities; and

1 (E) cardiovascular conditions (including
2 stroke).

3 (3) A determination of what credentials and
4 training are necessary for a health care specialist or
5 provider to perform such examinations related to
6 mental health conditions linked to MST, for men
7 and for women.

8 (4) An assessment of the quality of MST train-
9 ing for individuals who perform such examinations,
10 including recommendations for improvements to
11 such training.

12 (c) REPORTS.—

13 (1) REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES.—
14 Not later than 540 days after the date on which the
15 Secretary enters into an agreement under subsection
16 (a), the National Academies shall submit to the
17 Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and
18 House of Representatives a report on the com-
19 prehensive review conducted under subsection (b).
20 Such report shall include the following elements:

21 (A) The findings of the National Acad-
22 emies under subsection (b).

23 (B) Recommendations of the National
24 Academies regarding legislative or administra-

Passed the House of Representatives May 18, 2022.

Attest: **CHERYL L. JOHNSON,**
Clerk.