

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1031

AN ACT

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disparities associated with race and ethnicity with respect to certain benefits administered by the Secretary 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. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE**
2 **STUDY ON DISPARITIES ASSOCIATED WITH**
3 **RACE AND ETHNICITY WITH RESPECT TO**
4 **CERTAIN BENEFITS ADMINISTERED BY THE**
5 **SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) **STUDY REQUIRED.**—The Comptroller General of
7 the United States shall conduct a study—

8 (1) to assess whether there are disparities asso-
9 ciated with race and ethnicity with respect to—

10 (A) compensation benefits administered by
11 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

12 (B) disability ratings determined by the
13 Secretary, with specific consideration of dis-
14 ability evaluations based on pain; and

15 (C) the rejection of fully developed claims
16 for benefits under laws administered by the
17 Secretary; and

18 (2) to develop recommendations to facilitate
19 better data collection on the disparities described in
20 paragraph (1).

21 (b) **INITIAL BRIEFING.**—Not later than one year
22 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comp-
23 troller General shall brief Congress on the initial results
24 of the study conducted under subsection (a).

25 (c) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than 240 days after
26 the date on which the briefing required by subsection (b)

1 is conducted, the Comptroller General shall submit to Con-
2 gress a final report setting forth the results of the study
3 conducted under subsection (a), including the rec-
4 ommendations developed under paragraph (2) of such sub-
5 section.

Passed the Senate August 6 (legislative day, August
5), 2021.

Attest:

Secretary.

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