

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4545

To establish the Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs
Discharge Review Board Committee, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 18, 2022

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To establish the Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Discharge Review Board Committee, 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 “Discharge Review
5 Board Outreach Improvement Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE-DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
7 **ERANS AFFAIRS DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD**
8 **COMMITTEE.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT EXECUTIVE COM-
10 MITTEE.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established an
2 interagency committee to advise the Under Secretary
3 of Defense for Personnel and Readiness and the
4 Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs on matters re-
5 lating to the review boards under section 1553 of
6 title 10, United States Code.

7 (2) DESIGNATION.—The interagency committee
8 established under paragraph (1) shall be known as
9 the “Department of Defense-Department of Vet-
10 erans Affairs Discharge Review Board Committee”
11 (hereinafter in this section referred to as the “Com-
12 mittee”).

13 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Committee shall be com-
14 posed of the following:

15 (1) The Under Secretary of Defense for Per-
16 sonnel and Readiness, the Assistant Secretary of
17 Manpower and Reserve Affairs for each of the mili-
18 tary services, and such other officers and employees
19 of the Department of Defense as the Secretary of
20 Defense may designate.

21 (2) The Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs
22 and such other officers and employees of the Depart-
23 ment of Veterans Affairs as the Secretary of Vet-
24 erans Affairs may designate.

25 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary and
2 the Deputy Secretary shall jointly determine the size
3 and structure of the Committee, as well as the ad-
4 ministrative and procedural guidelines for the oper-
5 ation of the Committee.

6 (2) SUBCOMMITTEES.—The Committee may es-
7 tablish subcommittees to assist the Committee in
8 carrying out subsections (d) and (e), including the
9 following:

10 (A) A subcommittee on outreach and edu-
11 cation.

12 (B) A subcommittee on training for mem-
13 bers of the review boards under section 1553 of
14 title 10, United States Code.

15 (3) SUPPORT.—The Under Secretary and the
16 Deputy Secretary shall jointly supply appropriate
17 staff and resources to provide administrative support
18 and services for the Committee. Support for such
19 purposes shall be provided at a level that the Under
20 Secretary and the Deputy Secretary jointly deter-
21 mine sufficient for the efficient operation of the
22 Committee, including any subcommittees established
23 under paragraph (2).

24 (d) RECOMMENDATIONS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall provide
2 the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Vet-
3 erans Affairs with recommendations on the strategic
4 direction for the joint coordination and sharing ef-
5 forts between and within the Department of Defense
6 and the Department of Veterans Affairs on matters
7 regarding the review boards described in subsection
8 (a)(1).

9 (2) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not less frequently than
10 once each year, the Committee shall submit to the
11 two Secretaries and to Congress an annual report
12 containing such recommendations regarding the re-
13 view boards described in subsection (a)(1) as the
14 Committee considers appropriate.

15 (e) FUNCTIONS.—In order to enable the Committee
16 to make recommendations in its annual report under sub-
17 section (c)(2), the Committee shall do the following:

18 (1) Review existing policies, procedures, and
19 practices regarding reviews under section 1553 of
20 title 10, United States Code, with respect to matters
21 that pertain to the coordination and sharing of re-
22 sources between the Department of Defense and the
23 Department of Veterans Affairs.

24 (2) Identify changes in policies, procedures, and
25 practices that, in the judgment of the Committee,

1 would promote mutually beneficial coordination, use,
2 or exchange of use of services and resources of the
3 two Departments, with the goal of improving the
4 quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of the review
5 boards under section 1553 of such title for veterans,
6 members of the Armed Forces, individuals who re-
7 tired from service in the Armed Forces, and their
8 families through an enhanced partnership between
9 the two Departments.

10 (3) Identify and assess further opportunities for
11 the coordination and collaboration between the De-
12 partments that, in the judgment of the Committee,
13 would positively affect the review process under sec-
14 tion 1553 of such title.

15 (4) Review the implementation of activities de-
16 signed to promote the coordination and sharing of
17 resources between the Departments for matters re-
18 lating to the review process under section 1553 of
19 such title.

20 (5) Identify and assess strategies, which either
21 or both Departments may implement, that would in-
22 crease outreach to former members of the Armed
23 Forces described in subsection (d)(3)(B) of section

- 1 1553 of such title who may qualify for relief under
- 2 such section.

