

Union Calendar No.

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4183

[Report No. 116-]

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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 13, 2019

Mr. KHANNA (for himself, Mrs. LURIA, and Mrs. RADEWAGEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

DECEMBER --, 2019

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italics]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on August 13, 2019]

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Identifying Barriers and*
5 *Best Practices Study Act”.*

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

12 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 36 months after the*
13 *date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General*
14 *of the United States shall complete a study on disability*
15 *and pension benefits provided to members of the National*
16 *Guard and members of reserve components of the Armed*
17 *Forces by the Department of Veterans Affairs. In con-*
18 *ducting such study, 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 compo-*
23 *nents of the Armed Forces who received disability*
24 *compensation or pension provided by the Department*
25 *of Veterans Affairs.*

1 (2) *A comparison of each of the following be-*
2 *tween veterans who served only in the National*
3 *Guard or reserve components and veterans who served*
4 *in the regular components of the Armed Forces:*

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

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

9 (C) *The number of veterans in each group*
10 *with a service-connected disability, including the*
11 *number of each of the following types of such vet-*
12 *erans in each group:*

13 (i) *Pilots.*

14 (ii) *Veterans who served in the special*
15 *forces.*

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

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

23 (D) *The number of total claims for dis-*
24 *ability 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 *(b) REPORTS.—*

11 *(1) PRELIMINARY REPORT.—Not later than 18*
12 *months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the*
13 *Comptroller General shall submit to the Committees*
14 *on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Rep-*
15 *resentatives a preliminary report on the findings of*
16 *the study required by subsection (a).*

17 *(2) FINAL REPORT.—Upon completion of the*
18 *study, the Comptroller General shall submit to such*
19 *Committees a final report on such study.*