

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 813
OFFERED BY MR. BILIRAKIS OF FLORIDA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Putting Veterans
3 Funding First Act of 2013”.

4 SEC. 2. SCORING OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

5 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of
6 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,
7 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement
8 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this
9 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record
10 by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-
11 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the
12 vote on passage.

13 SEC. 3. ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CERTAIN DISCRE-
14 TIONARY ACCOUNTS OF THE DEPARTMENT
15 OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 117 of title 38, United
17 States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by striking “medical care accounts of the
2 Department” each place it appears and inserting
3 “discretionary accounts of the Department”;

4 (2) in subsection (c)—

5 (A) by striking “medical care accounts of
6 the Veterans Health Administration, Depart-
7 ment of Veterans Affairs account” and insert-
8 ing “accounts of the Department of Veterans
9 Affairs account”;

10 (B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “Vet-
11 erans Health Administration,” after “(1)”;

12 (C) in paragraph (2), by inserting “Vet-
13 erans Health Administration,” after “(2)”;

14 (D) in paragraph (3), by inserting “Vet-
15 erans Health Administration,” after “(3)”;

16 (E) by adding at the end the following new
17 paragraphs:

18 “(4) Veterans Health Administration, Medical
19 and Prosthetic Research.

20 “(5) National Cemetery Administration.

21 “(6) Veterans Benefits Administration, Native
22 American Veteran Housing Loan Program Account.

23 “(7) Departmental Administration, General Ad-
24 ministration, General Operating Expenses.

1 “(8) Departmental Administration, General Op-
2 erating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration.

3 “(9) Departmental Administration, Information
4 Technology Systems.

5 “(10) Departmental Administration, Office of
6 the Inspector General.

7 “(11) Departmental Administration, Construc-
8 tion, Major Projects.

9 “(12) Departmental Administration, Construc-
10 tion, Minor Projects.

11 “(13) Departmental Administration, Grants for
12 Construction of State Extended Care Facilities.

13 “(14) Departmental Administration, Grants for
14 Construction of Veterans Cemeteries.”; and

15 (F) in the subsection heading, by striking
16 “MEDICAL CARE ACCOUNTS” and inserting
17 “DISCRETIONARY ACCOUNTS”; and

18 (3) in the section heading, by striking “**cer-**
19 **tain medical care accounts**” and inserting
20 “**certain discretionary accounts**”.

21 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
22 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2016
23 and each subsequent fiscal year.

1 **SEC. 4. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT**
2 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CARE**
3 **BUDGET SUBMISSION.**

4 Section 4 of the Veterans Health Care Budget Re-
5 form and Transparency Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-
6 81; 38 U.S.C. 117 note) is amended to read as follows:

7 **“SEC. 4. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW OF DEPART-**
8 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CARE**
9 **BUDGET SUBMISSION.**

10 **“(a) REVIEW OF BUDGET SUBMISSION; REPORTS.—**
11 For each of fiscal years 2015, 2016, and 2017, the Comp-
12 troller General of the United States shall—

13 **“(1) review the budget requests for the medical**
14 **care accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs**
15 **in the President’s budget request submitted pursu-**
16 **ant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code;**
17 **and**

18 **“(2) submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Af-**
19 **airs, Appropriations, and the Budget of the Senate**
20 **and House of Representatives a report or reports on**
21 **the results of each such review.**

22 **“(b) TIMING AND SCOPE OF REPORTS.—In deter-**
23 **mining the timing and scope for the submittal of the re-**
24 **port or reports required under subsection (a), the Comp-**
25 **troller General shall consult with the Committees on Vet-**
26 **erans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives.**

1 “(c) MEDICAL CARE ACCOUNTS.—In this section, the
2 term ‘medical care accounts of the Department of Vet-
3 erans Affairs’ means the following medical care accounts
4 of the Veterans Health Administration, Department of
5 Veterans Affairs account:

6 “(1) Medical Services.

7 “(2) Medical Support and Compliance.

8 “(3) Medical Facilities.”.

9 **SEC. 5. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BUDGET**
10 **PLANNING REFORM.**

11 (a) FUTURE-YEARS VETERANS PROGRAM.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 38, United
13 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
14 following new section:

15 **“§ 119. Future-Years Veterans Program**

16 “(a) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary
17 shall submit to Congress each year, at or about the time
18 that the President’s budget is submitted to Congress pur-
19 suant to section 1105(a) of title 31, a Future-Years Vet-
20 erans Program reflecting the estimated expenditures and
21 proposed appropriations included in that budget. Any such
22 Future-Years Veterans Program shall cover the fiscal year
23 with respect to which the budget is submitted and at least
24 the four succeeding fiscal years.

1 “(b) CONSISTENCY.—(1) The Secretary shall ensure
2 that amounts described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph
3 (2) for any fiscal year are consistent with amounts de-
4 scribed in subparagraph (B) of such paragraph for that
5 fiscal year.

6 “(2) Amounts referred to in paragraph (1) are the
7 following:

8 “(A) The amounts specified in program and
9 budget information submitted to Congress by the
10 Secretary in support of expenditure estimates and
11 proposed appropriations in the budget submitted to
12 Congress by the President under section 1105(a) of
13 title 31 for any fiscal year, as shown in the Future-
14 Years Veterans Program submitted pursuant to sub-
15 section (a).

16 “(B) The total amounts of estimated expendi-
17 tures and proposed appropriations necessary to sup-
18 port the programs, projects, and activities of the De-
19 partment of Veterans Affairs included pursuant to
20 paragraph (5) of section 1105(a) of title 31 in the
21 budget submitted to Congress under that section for
22 any fiscal year.

23 “(c) CONTENTS.—The Future-Years Veterans Pro-
24 gram under subsection (a) shall set forth the five-year
25 plan of the Department to address the commitment of the

1 United States to veterans and the resources necessary to
2 meet that commitment and shall be developed and up-
3 dated, as appropriate, annually by the Secretary. Each
4 Future-Years Veterans Program shall include an expla-
5 nation of—

6 “(1) the information that was used to develop
7 program planning guidance for the Future-Years
8 Veterans Program; and

9 “(2) how the resource allocations included in
10 the Future-Years Veterans Program correlate to
11 such five-year strategy.”.

12 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
13 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended
14 by inserting after the item relating to section 118
15 the following new item:

“119. Future-Years Veterans Program.”.

16 (3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 119 of title 38,
17 United States Code, as added by paragraph (1),
18 shall apply with respect to the preparation and sub-
19 mission of the fiscal year 2018 budget request for
20 the Department of Veterans Affairs.

21 (b) QUADRENNIAL VETERANS REVIEW.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Such chapter is further
23 amended by adding after section 119, as added by
24 subsection (a)(1), the following new section:

1 **“§ 120. Quadrennial veterans review**

2 “(a) REQUIREMENT.—(1) Not later than fiscal year
3 2017, and every fourth year thereafter, the Secretary shall
4 conduct a review of the strategy for meeting the commit-
5 ment of the United States to veterans and the resources
6 necessary to meet that commitment (in this section re-
7 ferred to as a ‘quadrennial veterans review’).

8 “(2) Each quadrennial veterans review shall include
9 a comprehensive examination of the policies and strategies
10 of the United States with respect to veterans, including
11 recommendations regarding the long-term strategy and
12 priorities for programs, services, benefits, and outcomes
13 regarding veterans and guidance on the programs, assets,
14 capabilities, budget, policies, and authorities of the De-
15 partment.

16 “(3) The Secretary shall conduct each quadrennial
17 veterans review in consultation with key officials of the
18 Department, the heads of other Federal agencies, and
19 other relevant governmental and nongovernmental enti-
20 ties, including State, local, and tribal government officials,
21 members of Congress, veterans service organizations, pri-
22 vate sector representatives, academics, and other policy ex-
23 perts.

24 “(4) The Secretary shall ensure that each quadren-
25 nial veterans review is coordinated with the Future-Years
26 Veterans Program required under section 119 of this title.

1 “(b) CONTENTS OF REVIEW.—In each quadrennial
2 veterans review, the Secretary shall—

3 “(1) delineate a veterans strategy consistent
4 with the commitment of the United States to vet-
5 erans and refine a strategy for the types of, and pro-
6 vision of, programs, services, benefits, and outcomes
7 consistent with current authorities and require-
8 ments;

9 “(2) outline and prioritize the full range of pro-
10 grams and capabilities regarding veterans provided
11 by the Federal Government;

12 “(3) identify the budget plan required to pro-
13 vide sufficient resources to successfully execute the
14 full range of such programs and capabilities;

15 “(4) include an assessment of the organiza-
16 tional alignment of the Department with respect to
17 the strategy referred to in paragraph (1) and the
18 programs and capabilities referred to in paragraph
19 (2);

20 “(5) review and assess the effectiveness of the
21 mechanisms of the Department for executing the
22 process of turning the requirements identified in the
23 quadrennial veterans review into a plan to meet such
24 requirements, including an expenditure plan for the
25 Department; and

1 “(6) identify emerging trends, problems, oppor-
2 tunities, and issues that could affect veterans or the
3 Department during the ten-year period following the
4 period covered by the review.

5 “(c) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—(1) The Secretary
6 shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of
7 the Senate and the House of Representatives a report re-
8 garding each quadrennial veterans review. The Secretary
9 shall submit the report in the year following the year in
10 which the review is conducted, but not later than the date
11 on which the President submits the budget for the next
12 fiscal year to Congress under section 1105 of title 31,
13 United States Code.

14 “(2) Each report submitted under paragraph (1)
15 shall include—

16 “(A) the results of the quadrennial veterans re-
17 view;

18 “(B) a description of the challenges to, and op-
19 portunities for, the assumed or defined veterans-re-
20 lated interests of the Nation that were examined for
21 the purposes of that review;

22 “(C) the strategy for meeting the Nation’s com-
23 mitment to veterans, including a prioritized list of
24 the missions of the Department;

1 “(D) a description of the interagency coopera-
2 tion, preparedness of Federal assets, infrastructure,
3 budget plan, and other elements of the programs
4 and policies of the Nation associated with the strat-
5 egy referred to in subsection (b)(1) that are required
6 to execute successfully the full range of programs
7 and capabilities identified in such strategy and the
8 programs and capabilities outlined under subsection
9 (b)(2);

10 “(E) an assessment of the organizational align-
11 ment of the Department with the strategy referred
12 to in subsection (b)(1) and the programs and capa-
13 bilities outlined under subsection (b)(2), including
14 the Department’s organizational structure, manage-
15 ment systems, budget and accounting systems,
16 human resources systems, procurement systems, and
17 physical and technical infrastructure;

18 “(F) a discussion of the status of cooperation
19 among Federal agencies in the effort to promote na-
20 tional support for veterans;

21 “(G) a discussion of the status of cooperation
22 between the Federal Government and State, local,
23 and tribal governments in supporting veterans and
24 providing programs, services, benefits, and outcomes
25 to assist veterans;

1 “(H) an explanation of any underlying assump-
2 tions used in conducting the review; and

3 “(I) any other matter the Secretary considers
4 appropriate.”.

5 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
6 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended
7 by inserting after the item relating to section 119,
8 as added by subsection (a)(2), the following new
9 item:

 “120. Quadrennial Veterans Review.”.

10 (c) POLICY GUIDANCE.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Such chapter is further
12 amended by adding after section 120, as added by
13 subsection (b)(1), the following new section:

14 **“§ 121. Policy Guidance**

15 “The Secretary shall provide annually to the appro-
16 priate officials of the Department written policy guidance
17 for the preparation and review of the planning and pro-
18 gram recommendations and budget proposals of the ele-
19 ments of the Department of such officials. Such guidance
20 shall include guidance on the objectives of the Department
21 in accordance with Future-Years Veterans Program under
22 section 119 of this title and the quadrennial veterans re-
23 view under section 120 and the resource levels projected
24 to be available for the period of time for which such rec-
25 ommendations and proposals are to be effective.”.

1 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
2 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended
3 by inserting after the item relating to section 120,
4 as added by subsection (b)(2), the following new
5 item:

“121. Quadrennial veterans review.”.

6 (d) CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER OF THE DEPART-
7 MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 38, United
9 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
10 following new section:

11 **“§ 323. Chief Strategy Officer**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall designate
13 the Assistant Secretary whose functions include planning,
14 studies, and evaluations as the Chief Strategy Officer of
15 the Department. The Chief Strategy Officer shall advise
16 the Secretary on long-range strategy and implications.

17 “(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Chief Strategy Officer
18 is the principal advisor to the Secretary and other senior
19 officials of the Department, and shall provide independent
20 analysis and advice to the Secretary and such officials.
21 The Chief Strategy Officer shall carry out the following
22 responsibilities:

23 “(1) Conducting cost estimation and cost anal-
24 ysis for the programs of the Department.

1 “(2) Establishing policies for, and overseeing
2 the integration of, the planning, programming,
3 budgeting and execution process for the Depart-
4 ment.

5 “(3) Providing analysis and advice on matters
6 relating to the planning and programming phase of
7 the planning, programming, budgeting and execution
8 process, and the preparation of materials and guid-
9 ance for such process, as directed by the Secretary,
10 working in coordination with the Assistant Secretary
11 for Management.

12 “(4) Developing and executing the Future-
13 Years Veterans Program of the Department, as
14 specified under section 119 of this title.

15 “(5) Developing resource discussions relating to
16 requirements under consideration in the quadrennial
17 veterans review under section 120 of this title.

18 “(6) Formulating study guidance for analysis of
19 alternatives for programs and initiatives, including
20 any necessary acquisitions, development, or procure-
21 ment commensurate with such alternatives, and per-
22 formance of such analysis as directed by the Sec-
23 retary.

24 “(7) Reviewing, analyzing, and evaluating pro-
25 grams for executing approved strategies and policies,

1 ensuring that information on programs and expected
2 outcomes is presented accurately and completely.

3 “(8) Ensuring that the costs of programs and
4 alternatives are presented accurately and completely
5 by assisting in establishing standards, policies, and
6 procedures for the conduct of cost estimation and
7 cost analysis throughout the Department, including
8 guidance relating to the proper selection of con-
9 fidence levels in cost estimates generally and for spe-
10 cific programs of the Department.

11 “(9) Conducting studies at the request of the
12 Secretary regarding costs, policy assumptions, and
13 strategic implications of current policies and possible
14 alternatives.

15 “(10) Communicating directly to the Secretary
16 and the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs about
17 matters for which the Chief Strategy Officer is re-
18 sponsible without obtaining the approval or concur-
19 rence of any other official within the Department.”.

20 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
21 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended
22 by inserting after the item relating to section 322
23 the following new item:

“323. Chief Strategy Officer.”.

1 **SEC. 6. STUDY ON THE FUNCTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONAL**
2 **STRUCTURE OF THE OFFICE OF THE SEC-**
3 **RETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND OF THE**
4 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

5 (a) SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS STUDY.—

6 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a study
7 of the functions and organizational structure of the Office
8 of the Secretary and of the Department of Veterans Af-
9 fairs.

10 (b) CONTENTS OF STUDY.—In conducting the study
11 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consider whether
12 the allocation of functions and the organizational struc-
13 ture of the Department, as of the date of the enactment
14 of this Act, constitute the most effective, efficient, and ec-
15 onomical allocation and structure to assist the Secretary
16 in carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the Sec-
17 retary. The Secretary shall also consider—

18 (1) whether the organization of the Office and
19 the Department is—

20 (A) optimally structured to assist the Sec-
21 retary in the effective exercise of control over
22 the Department, including—

23 (i) policy development and strategic
24 planning;

1 (ii) programming, planning, and budg-
2 et development and policy, program, and
3 budget execution; and

4 (iii) contingency planning; and

5 (B) the most effective and efficient organi-
6 zation for the initiation, development, and ar-
7 ticipation of veterans' policy and the provision
8 of benefits and services;

9 (2) means of improving and strengthening the
10 oversight and accountability within the Office and
11 Department;

12 (3) factors inhibiting efficient and effective exe-
13 cution of the functions of the Office and the Depart-
14 ment, including factors relating to—

15 (A) any duplication of functions (both
16 within and between the Office and Depart-
17 ment);

18 (B) the availability to the Secretary of suf-
19 ficient and detailed information regarding the
20 operation of the Department to enable effective
21 planning, policy execution, and oversight; and

22 (C) the sufficiency of resources, including
23 personnel, to carry out current and projected
24 requirements in a more effective and efficient
25 manner; and

1 (4) possible alternative allocations and realign-
2 ments of authorities and functions within the Office
3 and Department to improve the Department's over-
4 all operation and better provide benefits and serv-
5 ices.

6 (c) INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR STUDY.—The Sec-
7 retary shall enter into a contract with an appropriate enti-
8 ty under which the entity shall carry out an independent
9 study of the same matters required to be considered by
10 the Secretary under subsection (b). The Secretary shall
11 ensure that the entity has full access to such information
12 as the contractor requires in order to conduct the study
13 and that the contractor otherwise receives full cooperation
14 from all officials and entities of the Department of Vet-
15 erans Affairs.

16 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one year
17 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
18 of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on
19 Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representa-
20 tives a report on the Secretary's study under subsection
21 (a). The report shall include—

22 (1) the findings and conclusions of the Sec-
23 retary with respect to each of the matters set forth
24 in subsection (b);

1 (2) any recommendations of the Secretary for
2 organizational changes in the Office of the Secretary
3 and the overall Department and a description of the
4 means for implementing each recommendation; and

5 (3) a copy of the report of the independent con-
6 tractor under subsection (c), together with such
7 comments on such report as the Secretary considers
8 appropriate.

9 **SEC. 7. PERFORMANCE AWARDS IN THE SENIOR EXECU-**
10 **TIVE SERVICE.**

11 For each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018, the Sec-
12 retary of Veterans Affairs may not pay any performance
13 awards under section 5384 of title 5, United States Code.

 Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend title
38, United States Code, to provide for advance appro-
priations for certain discretionary accounts of the De-
partment of Veterans Affairs, to direct the Secretary of
Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a Future-Years
Veterans Program and a quadrennial veterans review, to
establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a Chief
Strategy Officer, and for other purposes.”.

