

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 216
OFFERED BY MR. LAMBORN OF COLORADO**

At the end of section 120 of title 38, United States Code, as proposed to be added by section 2(b)(1), add the following new subsection:

1 “(e) INDEPENDENT VETERANS REVIEW PANEL.—(1)
2 Not later than February 1 of a year in which a quadren-
3 nial veterans review is conducted under this section, the
4 Secretary shall establish an independent panel to be
5 known as the Independent Veterans Review Panel (in this
6 subsection referred to as the ‘Panel’). The Panel shall
7 have the duties set forth in this subsection.

8 “(2) The Panel shall be composed of 10 members who
9 are recognized experts in matters relating to veterans. The
10 members shall be appointed as follows:

11 “(A) Two by the chairman of the Committee on
12 Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives.

13 “(B) Two by the chairman of the Committee on
14 Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate.

15 “(C) Two by the ranking member of the Com-
16 mittee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Rep-
17 resentatives.

1 “(D) Two by the ranking member of the Com-
2 mittee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate.

3 “(E) Two by the Secretary, who shall serve as
4 co-chairs of the panel.

5 “(3) Members shall be appointed for the life of the
6 Panel. Any vacancy in the Panel shall be filled in the same
7 manner as the original appointment.

8 “(4) The Panel shall have the following duties with
9 respect to a quadrennial veterans review:

10 “(A) While the review is being conducted, the
11 Panel shall review the updates from the Secretary
12 required under paragraph (7) on the progress of the
13 conduct of the review.

14 “(B) The Panel shall—

15 “(i) review the Secretary’s terms of ref-
16 erence and any other materials providing the
17 basis for, or substantial inputs to, the work of
18 the Department of Veterans Affairs on the
19 quadrennial veterans review;

20 “(ii) conduct an assessment of the assump-
21 tions, strategy, findings, and risks included in
22 the report on the quadrennial veterans review
23 required in subsection (c);

1 “(iii) conduct an independent assessment
2 of a variety of strategies for delivering services
3 and support to veterans;

4 “(iv) review the resource requirements
5 identified pursuant to subsection (b)(3) and, to
6 the extent practicable, make a general compari-
7 son to the resource requirements to support the
8 strategies assessed under this subparagraph;
9 and

10 “(v) provide to the Committees on Vet-
11 erans’ Affairs of the Senate and the House of
12 Representatives and the Secretary, through the
13 report under paragraph (7), any recommenda-
14 tions the Panel determines appropriate.

15 “(5) If the Secretary has not appointed members to
16 the Panel under paragraph (2)(E) by February 1 of a year
17 in which a quadrennial veterans review is conducted under
18 this section, the Panel shall convene for its first meeting
19 with the remaining members.

20 “(6) Not later than three months after the date on
21 which the report on a quadrennial veterans review is sub-
22 mitted under subsection (c) to the Committees on Vet-
23 erans’ Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representa-
24 tives, the Panel shall submit to such committees a report
25 containing an assessment of the quadrennial veterans re-

1 view, including a description of the items addressed under
2 paragraph (4) with respect to that quadrennial veterans
3 review.

4 “(7) Periodically, but not less often than every 60
5 days during the life of the panel, or at the request of the
6 co-chairs, the Secretary shall brief the Panel on the
7 progress of the conduct of the quadrennial veterans re-
8 view.

9 “(8)(A) The Panel may request directly from the De-
10 partment such information as the Panel considers nec-
11 essary to carry out its duties under this subsection. The
12 Secretary shall cooperate with the Panel to ensure that
13 information requested by the Panel under this subpara-
14 graph is promptly provided to the maximum extent prac-
15 tical.

16 “(B) Upon the request of the co-chairs, the Secretary
17 shall make available to the Panel the services of any feder-
18 ally funded research and development center that is cov-
19 ered by a sponsoring agreement of the Department.

20 “(C) The Panel shall have the authorities provided
21 in section 3161 of title 5 and shall be subject to the condi-
22 tions set forth in such section.

23 “(D) Funds for activities of the Panel shall be pro-
24 vided from amounts available to the Department.

1 “(9) The Panel shall terminate 45 days after the date
2 on which the Panel submits the report on the quadrennial
3 veterans review under paragraph (6).”.

