

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 2256
OFFERED BY MR. BENISHEK OF MICHIGAN**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Information
3 Modernization Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORT ON VETERANS HEALTH ADMINIS-**
5 **TRATION AND FURNISHING OF HOSPITAL**
6 **CARE, MEDICAL SERVICES, AND NURSING**
7 **HOME CARE.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 73 of
9 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
10 end the following new section:

11 **“§ 7330B. Annual report on Veterans Health Adminis-**
12 **tration and furnishing of hospital care,**
13 **medical services, and nursing home care**

14 “(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than March 1
15 of each year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees
16 on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Rep-
17 resentatives a report on the furnishing of hospital care,
18 medical services, and nursing home care under the laws

1 administered by the Secretary and on the administration
2 of the provision of such care and services by the Veterans
3 Health Administration during the calendar year preceding
4 the calendar year during which the report is submitted.

5 “(b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—Each report required
6 by subsection (a) shall include each of the following for
7 the year covered by the report:

8 “(1) An evaluation of the effectiveness of the
9 Veterans Health Administration program in increas-
10 ing the access of veterans eligible for hospital care,
11 medical services, and nursing home care furnished
12 by the Secretary to such care.

13 “(2) An evaluation of the effectiveness of the
14 Veterans Health Administration in improving the
15 quality of health care provided to such veterans,
16 without increasing the costs incurred by the Govern-
17 ment or such veterans, which includes the relevant
18 information for each medical center and Veterans
19 Integrated Service Network of the Department set
20 forth separately.

21 “(3) An assessment of—

22 “(A) the workload of physicians and other
23 employees of the Veterans Health Administra-
24 tion;

1 “(B) patient demographics and utilization
2 rates;

3 “(C) physician compensation;

4 “(D) the productivity of physicians and
5 other employees of the Veterans Health Admin-
6 istration;

7 “(E) the percentage of hospital care, med-
8 ical services, and nursing home care provided to
9 such veterans in Department facilities and in
10 non-Department facilities and any changes in
11 such percentages compared to the year pre-
12 ceding the year covered by the report;

13 “(F) pharmaceutical prices; and

14 “(G) third party health billings owed to the
15 Department, including the total amount of such
16 billings and the total amounts collected, set
17 forth separately for claims greater than \$1000
18 and for claims equal to or less than \$1000.

19 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ‘hos-
20 pital care’, ‘medical services’, ‘nursing home care’, and
21 ‘non-Department facilities’ have the meanings given such
22 terms in section 1701 of this title.”.

23 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
24 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting

1 after the item relating to section 7330A the following new
2 item:

“7330B. Annual report on Veterans Health Administration and furnishing of
hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care.”.

3 **SEC. 3. EXPANSION OF DEFINITION OF HOMELESS VET-**
4 **ERAN FOR PURPOSES OF BENEFITS UNDER**
5 **THE LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE SEC-**
6 **RETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

7 Section 2002(1) of title 38, United States Code, is
8 amended by inserting “or (b)” after “section 103(a)”.

9 **SEC. 4. IDENTIFICATION AND TRACKING OF BIOLOGICAL**
10 **IMPLANTS USED IN DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
11 **ERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITIES.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 73 of
13 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
14 end the following new section:

15 **“§ 7330B. Identification and tracking of biological im-**
16 **plants**

17 “(a) STANDARD IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR BIO-
18 LOGICAL IMPLANTS.—(1) The Secretary shall adopt the
19 unique device identification system developed for medical
20 devices by the Food and Drug Administration pursuant
21 to section 519(f) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic
22 Act (21 U.S.C. 360i(f)), or implement a comparable
23 standard identification system, for use in identifying bio-

1 logical implants intended for use in medical procedures
2 conducted in medical facilities of the Department.

3 “(2) In adopting or implementing a standard identi-
4 fication system for biological implants under paragraph
5 (1), the Secretary shall permit a vendor to use any of the
6 accredited entities identified by the Food and Drug Ad-
7 ministration as an issuing agency pursuant to section
8 830.100 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, or any
9 successor regulation.

10 “(b) BIOLOGICAL IMPLANT TRACKING SYSTEM.—(1)
11 The Secretary shall implement a system for tracking the
12 biological implants referred to in subsection (a) from
13 human donor or animal source to implantation.

14 “(2) The tracking system implemented under para-
15 graph (1) shall be compatible with the identification sys-
16 tem adopted or implemented under subsection (a).

17 “(3) The Secretary shall implement inventory con-
18 trols compatible with the tracking system implemented
19 under paragraph (1) so that all patients who have re-
20 ceived, in a medical facility of the Department, a biological
21 implant subject to a recall can be notified of the recall,
22 if based on the evaluation of appropriate medical per-
23 sonnel of the Department of the risks and benefits, the
24 Secretary determines such notification is appropriate.

1 “(c) CONSISTENCY WITH FOOD AND DRUG ADMINIS-
2 TRATION REGULATIONS.—To the extent that a conflict
3 arises between this section and a provision of the Federal
4 Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.)
5 or sections 351 or 361 of the Public Health Service Act
6 (42 U.S.C. 262) (including any regulations issued under
7 such Acts), the provision the Federal Food, Drug, and
8 Cosmetic Act or Public Health Service Act (including any
9 regulations issued under such Acts) shall apply.

10 “(d) DEFINITION OF BIOLOGICAL IMPLANT.—In this
11 section, the term ‘biological implant’ means any animal
12 or human cell, tissue, or cellular or tissue-based product—

13 “(1) under the meaning given the term human
14 cells, tissues, or cellular or tissue-based products in
15 section 1271.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regula-
16 tions, or any successor regulation;

17 “(2) that is regulated as a device under section
18 201(h) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic
19 Act.”.

20 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
21 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
22 at the end of the items relating to such subchapter the
23 following new item:

 “7330B. Identification and tracking of biological implants.”.

24 (c) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINES.—

25 (1) STANDARD IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to biologi-
2 cal implants described in paragraph (1) of sub-
3 section (d) of section 7330B of title 38, United
4 States Code, as added by subsection (a), the
5 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall adopt or im-
6 plement a standard identification system for bi-
7 ological implants, as required by subsection (a)
8 of such section, by not later than the date that
9 is 180 days after the date of the enactment of
10 this Act.

11 (B) IMPLANTS REGULATED AS DEVICES.—
12 With respect to biological implants described in
13 paragraph (2) of subsection (d) of such section,
14 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall adopt or
15 implement such standard identification system
16 in compliance with the compliance dates estab-
17 lished by the Food and Drug Administration
18 pursuant to section 519(f) of the Federal Food,
19 Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360i(f)).

20 (2) TRACKING SYSTEM.—The Secretary of Vet-
21 erans Affairs shall implement the biological implant
22 tracking system required by subsection (b) of section
23 7330B, as added by subsection (a), by not later than
24 the date that is 180 days after the date of the enact-
25 ment of this Act.

1 (d) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the biological implant
3 tracking system required by section 7330B(b) of
4 title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection
5 (a), is not operational by the date that is 180 days
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
7 retary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Com-
8 mittees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and
9 House of Representatives a written explanation for
10 why the system is not operational for each month
11 until such time as the system is operational.

12 (2) ELEMENTS.—Each explanation submitted
13 under paragraph (1) shall include a description of
14 the following:

15 (A) Each impediment to the implementa-
16 tion of the system described in such paragraph.

17 (B) Steps being taken to remediate each
18 such impediment.

19 (C) Target dates for a solution to each
20 such impediment.

21 **SEC. 5. PROCUREMENT OF BIOLOGICAL IMPLANTS USED IN**
22 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MED-**
23 **ICAL FACILITIES.**

24 (a) PROCUREMENT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 81
2 of such title is amended by adding at the end the
3 following new section:

4 **“§ 8129. Procurement of biological implants**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) The Secretary may procure
6 biological implants of human origin only from vendors that
7 meet the following conditions:

8 “(A) The vendor uses the standard identifica-
9 tion system adopted or implemented by the Sec-
10 retary under section 7330B(a) of this title and has
11 safeguards to ensure that a distinct identity code
12 has been in place at each step of distribution of each
13 biological implant from its donor.

14 “(B) The vendor is registered as required by
15 the Food and Drug Administration under subpart B
16 of part 1271 of title 21, Code of Federal Regula-
17 tions, or any successor regulation, and in the case of
18 a vendor that uses a tissue distribution intermediary
19 or a tissue processor, the vendor provides assurances
20 that the tissue distribution intermediary or tissue
21 processor is registered as required by the Food and
22 Drug Administration.

23 “(C) The vendor ensures that donor eligibility
24 determinations and such other records as the Sec-
25 retary may require accompany each biological im-

1 plant at all times, regardless of the country of origin
2 of the donor of the biological material.

3 “(D) The vendor agrees to cooperate with all
4 biological implant recalls conducted on the vendor’s
5 own initiative, on the initiative of the original prod-
6 uct manufacturer used by the vendor, by the request
7 of the Food and Drug Administration, or by a statu-
8 tory order of the Food and Drug Administration.

9 “(E) The vendor agrees to notify the Secretary
10 of any adverse event or reaction report it provides
11 to the Food and Drug Administration, as required
12 by section 1271.350 of title 21, Code of Federal
13 Regulations, or any successor regulation, or any suc-
14 cessor regulation, or of any warning letter from the
15 Food and Drug Administration issued to the vendor
16 or a tissue processor or tissue distribution inter-
17 mediary it uses by not later than 60 days after the
18 vendor receives such report or warning letter.

19 “(F) The vendor agrees to retain all records as-
20 sociated with the procurement of a biological implant
21 by the Department for at least 10 years after the
22 date of the procurement of the biological implant.

23 “(G) The vendor provides assurances that the
24 biological implants provided by the vendor are ac-
25 quired only from tissue processors that maintain ac-

1 tive accreditation with the American Association of
2 Tissue Banks or a similar national accreditation spe-
3 cific to biological implants.

4 “(2) The Secretary may procure biological implants
5 of non-human origin only from vendors that meet the fol-
6 lowing conditions:

7 “(A) The vendor uses the standard identifica-
8 tion system adopted or implemented by the Sec-
9 retary under section 7330B(a) of this title.

10 “(B) The vendor is a registered establishment
11 as required by the Food and Drug Administration
12 under sections 807.20 and 807.40 of title 21, Code
13 of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation,
14 (or is not required to register pursuant to section
15 807.65(a) of such title) and in the case of a vendor
16 that is not the original product manufacturer of
17 such implants the vendor provides assurances that
18 the original product manufacturer is registered as
19 required by the Food and Drug Administration.

20 “(C) The vendor agrees to cooperate with all bi-
21 ological implant recalls conducted on the vendor’s
22 own initiative, on the initiative of the original prod-
23 uct manufacturer used by the vendor, by the request
24 of the Food and Drug Administration, or by a statu-
25 tory order of the Food and Drug Administration.

1 “(D) The vendor agrees to notify the Secretary
2 of any adverse event report it provides to the Food
3 and Drug Administration as required in part 803 of
4 title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, or any warn-
5 ing letter from the Food and Drug Administration
6 issued to the vendor or the original product manu-
7 facturer it uses by not later than 60 days after the
8 vendor receives such report or warning letter.

9 “(E) The vendor agrees to retain all records as-
10 sociated with the procurement of a biological implant
11 by the Department for at least 10 years after the
12 date of the procurement of the biological implant.

13 “(3)(A) The Secretary shall procure biological im-
14 plants under the Federal Supply Schedules of the General
15 Services Administration unless such implants are not
16 available under such Schedules.

17 “(B) With respect to biological implants listed on the
18 Federal Supply Schedules, the Secretary shall accommo-
19 date reasonable vendor requests to undertake outreach ef-
20 forts to educate medical professionals of the Department
21 about the use and efficacy of such biological implants.

22 “(C) In the case of biological implants that are un-
23 available for procurement under the Federal Supply
24 Schedules, the Secretary shall procure such implants using

1 competitive procedures in accordance with applicable law
2 and the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

3 “(4) Section 8123 of this title shall not apply to the
4 procurement of biological implants.

5 “(b) PENALTIES.—In addition to any applicable pen-
6 alty under any other provision of law, any procurement
7 employee of the Department who is found responsible for
8 a biological implant procurement transaction with intent
9 to avoid or with reckless disregard of the requirements of
10 this section shall be ineligible to hold a certificate of ap-
11 pointment as a contracting officer or to serve as the rep-
12 resentative of an ordering officer, contracting officer, or
13 purchase card holder.

14 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 “(1) The term ‘biological implant’ shall have
16 the meaning given such term in section 7330B(d) of
17 this title.

18 “(2) The term ‘distinct identity code’ means a
19 code that—

20 “(A) relates a biological implant to the
21 human donor of the implant and to all records
22 pertaining to the implant;

23 “(B) includes information designed to fa-
24 cilitate effective tracking, using such code, from

1 the donor to the recipient and from the recipi-
2 ent to the donor; and

3 “(C) satisfies the requirements of section
4 1271.290 of title 21, Code of Federal Regula-
5 tions, or any successor regulation.

6 “(3) The term ‘tissue distribution intermediary’
7 means an agency that acquires and stores human
8 tissue for further distribution and performs no other
9 tissue banking functions.

10 “(4) The term ‘tissue processor’ means an enti-
11 ty processing human tissue for use in biological im-
12 plants including activities performed on tissue other
13 than donor screening, donor testing, tissue recovery
14 and collection functions, storage, or distribution.”.

15 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
16 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended
17 by adding at the end of the items relating to such
18 subchapter the following new item:

“8129. Procurement of biological implants.”.

19 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 8129 of title 38,
20 United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take
21 effect on the date that is 180 days after the date on which
22 the tracking system required under subsection (b) of sec-
23 tion 7330B of such title, as added by section 4(a) is imple-
24 mented.

1 (c) SPECIAL RULE FOR CRYOPRESERVED PROD-
2 UCTS.—During the three-year period beginning on the ef-
3 fective date of section 8129 of title 38, United States
4 Code, as added by subsection (a), biological implants pro-
5 duced and labeled before that date may be procured by
6 the Department of Veterans Affairs without relabeling
7 under the standard identification system adopted or imple-
8 mented under section 7330B of such title, as added by
9 section 4(a).

10 **SEC. 6. EXTENSION OF ROUNDING DOWN OF PERCENTAGE**
11 **INCREASES OF RATES OF CERTAIN EDU-**
12 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE.**

13 (a) MONTGOMERY GI BILL.—Section 3015(h)(2) of
14 title 38, United States Code, is amended—

15 (1) by striking “fiscal year 2014” and inserting
16 “fiscal year 2020”; and

17 (2) by striking “fiscal year 2013” and inserting
18 “fiscal year 2019”.

19 (b) SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS EDUCATIONAL
20 ASSISTANCE.—Section 3564(b) of such title is amended—

21 (1) by striking “fiscal year 2014” and inserting
22 “fiscal year 2020”; and

23 (2) by striking “fiscal year 2013” and inserting
24 “fiscal year 2019”.

1 **SEC. 7. VETERANS EXPEDITED RECOVERY COMMISSION.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Vet-
3 erans Expedited Recovery Commission (in this section re-
4 ferred to as the “Commission”).

5 (b) DUTIES.—The Commission shall perform the fol-
6 lowing duties:

7 (1) Examine the efficacy of the evidence-based
8 therapy model used by the Secretary of Veterans Af-
9 fairs for treating mental health illnesses of veterans
10 and identify areas to improve wellness-based out-
11 comes.

12 (2) Conduct a patient-centered survey within
13 each of the Veterans Integrated Service Networks to
14 examine—

15 (A) the experience of veterans with the De-
16 partment of Veterans Affairs when seeking
17 medical assistance for mental health issues
18 through the health care system of the Depart-
19 ment;

20 (B) the experience of veterans with non-
21 Department medical facilities and health profes-
22 sionals for treating mental health issues;

23 (C) the preferences of veterans regarding
24 available treatments for mental health issues
25 and which methods the veterans believe to be
26 most effective;

1 (D) the experience, if any, of veterans with
2 respect to the complementary alternative treat-
3 ment therapies described in subparagraphs (A)
4 through (I) in paragraph (3);

5 (E) the prevalence of prescribing prescrip-
6 tion medication among veterans seeking treat-
7 ment through the health care system of the De-
8 partment as remedies for addressing mental
9 health issues; and

10 (F) the outreach efforts of the Secretary
11 regarding the availability of benefits and treat-
12 ments for veterans for addressing mental health
13 issues, including by identifying ways to reduce
14 barriers to and gaps in such benefits and treat-
15 ments.

16 (3) Examine available research on complemen-
17 tary alternative treatment therapies for mental
18 health issues and identify what benefits could be
19 made with the inclusion of such treatments for vet-
20 erans, including with respect to—

21 (A) music therapy;

22 (B) equine therapy;

23 (C) training and caring for service dogs;

24 (D) yoga therapy;

25 (E) acupuncture therapy;

- 1 (F) meditation therapy;
2 (G) outdoor sports therapy;
3 (H) hyperbaric oxygen therapy;
4 (I) accelerated resolution therapy; and
5 (J) other therapies the Commission deter-
6 mines appropriate.

7 (4) Study the potential increase of claims relat-
8 ing to mental health issues submitted to the Sec-
9 retary by veterans who served in Operation Endur-
10 ing Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, or Oper-
11 ation New Dawn, including an assessment of the re-
12 sources available within the Department to ensure
13 that quality health care demands relating to such
14 claims can be delivered in a timely manner.

15 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

16 (1) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall
18 be composed of 10 members, appointed as fol-
19 lows:

20 (i) Two members appointed by the
21 Speaker of the House of Representatives,
22 at least one of whom shall be a veteran.

23 (ii) Two members appointed by the
24 Minority Leader of the House of Rep-

1 representatives, at least one of whom shall be
2 a veteran.

3 (iii) Two members appointed by the
4 Majority Leader of the Senate, at least one
5 of whom shall be a veteran.

6 (iv) Two members appointed by the
7 Minority Leader of the Senate, at least one
8 of whom shall be a veteran.

9 (v) Two members appointed by the
10 President, at least one of whom shall be a
11 veteran.

12 (B) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members of the
13 Commission shall be—

14 (i) individuals who are of recognized
15 standing and distinction within the medical
16 community with a background in treating
17 mental health;

18 (ii) individuals with experience work-
19 ing with the military and veteran popu-
20 lation; and

21 (iii) individuals who do not have a fi-
22 nancial interest in any of the complemen-
23 tary alternative treatments reviewed by the
24 Commission.

1 (2) CHAIRMAN.—The President shall designate
2 a member of the Commission to be the chairman.

3 (3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—Members of
4 the Commission shall be appointed for the life of the
5 Commission.

6 (4) VACANCY.—A vacancy in the Commission
7 shall be filled in the manner in which the original
8 appointment was made.

9 (5) APPOINTMENT DEADLINE.—The appoint-
10 ment of members of the Commission in this section
11 shall be made not later than 90 days after the date
12 of the enactment of this Act.

13 (d) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

14 (1) MEETING.—

15 (A) INITIAL MEETING.—The Commission
16 shall hold its first meeting not later than 30
17 days after a majority of members are appointed
18 to the Commission.

19 (B) MEETING.—The Commission shall reg-
20 ularly meet at the call of the Chairman. Such
21 meetings may be carried out through the use of
22 telephonic or other appropriate telecommuni-
23 cation technology if the Commission determines
24 that such technology will allow the members to
25 communicate simultaneously.

1 (2) HEARING.—The Commission may hold such
2 hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take
3 such testimony, and receive evidence as the Commis-
4 sion considers advisable to carry out the responsibil-
5 ities of the Commission.

6 (3) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—
7 The Commission may secure directly from any de-
8 partment or agency of the Federal Government such
9 information as the Commission considers necessary
10 to carry out the duties of the Commission.

11 (4) INFORMATION FROM NONGOVERNMENTAL
12 ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying out subsection (b),
13 the Commission may seek guidance through con-
14 sultation with foundations, veterans service organi-
15 zations, nonprofit groups, faith-based organizations,
16 private and public institutions of higher education,
17 and other organizations as the Commission deter-
18 mines appropriate.

19 (5) COMMISSION RECORDS.—The Commission
20 shall keep an accurate and complete record of the
21 actions and meetings of the Commission. Such
22 record shall be made available for public inspection
23 and the Comptroller General of the United States
24 may audit and examine such record.

1 (6) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—Upon request of
2 the chairman of the Commission, the head of any
3 department or agency of the Federal Government
4 may detail, on a reimbursable basis, any personnel
5 of that department or agency to assist the Commis-
6 sion in carrying out the duties of the Commission.

7 (7) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS; TRAVEL EX-
8 PENSES.—Each member shall serve without pay, ex-
9 cept that each member shall receive travel expenses
10 to perform the duties of the Commission under sub-
11 section (b), including per diem in lieu of subsistence,
12 at rates authorized under subchapter I of chapter 57
13 of title 5, United States Code.

14 (8) STAFF.—The Chairman, in accordance with
15 rules agreed upon by the Commission, may appoint
16 and fix the compensation of a staff director and
17 such other personnel as may be necessary to enable
18 the Commission to carry out its functions, without
19 regard to the provisions of title 5, United States
20 Code, governing appointments in the competitive
21 service, without regard to the provision of chapter
22 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title re-
23 lating to classification and General Schedule pay
24 rates, except that no rate of pay fixed under this
25 subsection may exceed the equivalent of that payable

1 for a position at a level IV of the Executive Schedule
2 under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

3 (9) PERSONNEL AS FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—The executive director
5 and any personnel of the Commission are em-
6 ployees under section 2105 of title 5, United
7 States Code, for purpose of chapters 63, 81, 83,
8 84, 85, 87, 89, and 90 of such title.

9 (B) MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

10 Subparagraph (A) shall not be construed to
11 apply to members of the Commission.

12 (10) CONTRACTING.—The Commission may, to
13 such extent and in such amounts as are provided in
14 appropriations Acts, enter into contracts to enable
15 the Commission to discharge the duties of the Com-
16 mission under this section.

17 (11) EXPERT AND CONSULTANT SERVICE.—The
18 Commission may procure the services of experts and
19 consultants in accordance with section 3109 of title
20 5, United States Code, at rates not to exceed the
21 daily rate paid to a person occupying a position at
22 level IV of the Executive Schedule under section
23 5315 of title 5, United States Code.

24 (12) POSTAL SERVICE.—The Commission may
25 use the United States mails in the same manner and

1 under the same conditions as departments and agen-
2 cies of the United States.

3 (13) PHYSICAL FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT.—

4 Upon the request of the Commission, the Adminis-
5 trator of General Services shall provide to the Com-
6 mission, on a reimbursable basis, the administrative
7 support services necessary for the Commission to
8 carry out its responsibilities under this section.
9 These administrative services may include human re-
10 source management, budget, leasing, accounting,
11 and payroll services.

12 (e) REPORT.—

13 (1) INTERIM REPORTS.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days
15 after the date on which the Commission first
16 meets, and each 30-day period thereafter end-
17 ing on the date on which the Commission sub-
18 mits the final report under paragraph (2), the
19 Commission shall submit to the Committees on
20 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representa-
21 tives and the Senate and the President a report
22 detailing the level of cooperation the Secretary
23 of Veterans Affairs (and the heads of other de-
24 partments or agencies of the Federal Govern-
25 ment) has provided to the Commission.

1 (B) OTHER REPORTS.—In carrying out the
2 duties pursuant to subsection (b), at times that
3 the Commission determines appropriate, the
4 Commission shall submit to the Committees on
5 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representa-
6 tives and the Senate and any other appropriate
7 entities an interim report with respect to the
8 findings identified by the Commission.

9 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 18 months
10 after the first meeting of the Commission, the Com-
11 mission shall submit to the Committees on Veterans'
12 Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Sen-
13 ate, the President, and the Secretary of Veterans Af-
14 fairs a final report on the findings of the Commis-
15 sion. Such report shall include the following:

16 (A) Recommendations to implement in a
17 feasible, timely, and cost-effective manner the
18 solutions and remedies identified within the
19 findings of the Commission pursuant to sub-
20 section (b).

21 (B) An analysis of the evidence-based ther-
22 apy model used by the Secretary of Veterans
23 Affairs for treating veterans with mental health
24 care issues, and an examination of the preva-

1 lence and efficacy of prescription drugs as a
2 means for treatment.

3 (C) The findings of the patient-centered
4 survey conducted within each of the Veterans
5 Integrated Service Networks pursuant to sub-
6 section (b)(2).

7 (D) An examination of complementary al-
8 ternative treatments described in subsection
9 (b)(3) and the potential benefits of incor-
10 porating such treatments in the therapy model
11 used by the Secretary for treating veterans with
12 mental health issues.

13 (3) PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the
14 date on which the Commission submits the final re-
15 port under subsection (b), the Secretary of Veterans
16 Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans'
17 Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Sen-
18 ate a report on the following:

19 (A) An action plan for implementing the
20 recommendations established by the Commis-
21 sion on such solutions and remedies for improv-
22 ing wellness-based outcomes for veterans with
23 mental health care issues.

24 (B) A feasible timeframe on when com-
25plementary alternative treatments described in

1 subsection (b)(3) can be implemented Depart-
2 ment-wide.

3 (C) With respect to each recommendation
4 established by the Commission, including re-
5 garding any complementary alternative treat-
6 ment, that the Secretary determines is not ap-
7 propriate or feasible to implement, a justifica-
8 tion for each such determination and an alter-
9 native solution to improve the efficacy of the
10 therapy model used by the Secretary for treat-
11 ing veterans with mental health issues.

12 (f) TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.—The Commis-
13 sion shall terminate 30 days after the Commission submits
14 the final report under subsection (e)(2).

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit an annual report on the Veterans Health Administration, to provide for the identification and tracking of biological implants used in Department of Veterans Affairs facilities, and for other purposes.”.

