

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3856

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disparities associated with race and ethnicity with respect to certain benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2021

Mr. TAKANO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disparities associated with race and ethnicity with respect to certain benefits administered by the Secretary 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE**  
2 **STUDY ON DISPARITIES ASSOCIATED WITH**  
3 **RACE AND ETHNICITY WITH RESPECT TO**  
4 **CERTAIN BENEFITS ADMINISTERED BY THE**  
5 **SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) **STUDY REQUIRED.**—The Comptroller General of  
7 the United States shall conduct a study—

8 (1) to assess whether there are disparities asso-  
9 ciated with race and ethnicity with respect to—

10 (A) compensation benefits administered by  
11 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

12 (B) disability ratings determined by the  
13 Secretary, with specific consideration of dis-  
14 ability evaluations based on pain; and

15 (C) the rejection of fully developed claims  
16 for benefits under laws administered by the  
17 Secretary;

18 (2) to assess whether there is any relationship  
19 between disparities associated with race and eth-  
20 nicity identified under paragraph (1) and other de-  
21 mographic characteristics such as gender and age;  
22 and

23 (3) to develop recommendations to facilitate  
24 better data collection on the disparities described in  
25 paragraphs (1) and (2).

1       (b) INITIAL BRIEFING.—Not later than one year  
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comp-  
3 troller General shall brief Congress on the initial results  
4 of the study conducted under subsection (a).

5       (c) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 240 days after  
6 the date on which the briefing required by subsection (b)  
7 is conducted, the Comptroller General shall submit to Con-  
8 gress a final report setting forth the results of the study  
9 conducted under subsection (a), including the rec-  
10 ommendations developed under paragraph (3) of such sub-  
11 section.

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