

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6052

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to require the employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive training developed by the Inspector General of the Department on reporting wrongdoing to, responding to requests from, and cooperating with the Office of Inspector General, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 18, 2021

Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself and Mr. MCKINLEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to require the employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive training developed by the Inspector General of the Department on reporting wrongdoing to, responding to requests from, and cooperating with the Office of Inspector General, 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 “Department of Vet-  
5 erans Affairs Office of Inspector General Training Act of  
6 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EMPLOYEE**  
2 **TRAINING REGARDING OFFICE OF INSPEC-**  
3 **TOR GENERAL.**

4 (a) TRAINING.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
5 shall require each employee of the Department of Veterans  
6 Affairs to receive training that the Inspector General of  
7 the Department shall develop on the reporting of wrong-  
8 doing to, responding to requests from, and cooperating  
9 with the Office of Inspector General.

10 (b) EMPLOYEES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the  
11 Secretary shall require—

12 (1) each employee of the Department who was  
13 employed by the Department on the day before the  
14 date of the enactment of this Act undergo the train-  
15 ing required by subsection (a) not later than one  
16 year after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

17 (2) each employee of the Department who be-  
18 gins employment with the Department on or after  
19 the date of the enactment of this Act undergo the  
20 training required by subsection (a) not later than  
21 one year after the date on which the employment be-  
22 gins.

23 (c) ELEMENTS.—Training developed and required  
24 under subsection (a) shall include the following:

25 (1) Definition of the role, responsibilities, and  
26 legal authority of the Inspector General of the De-

1       partment and the duties of employees of the Depart-  
2       ment for engaging with the Office of the Inspector  
3       General.

4           (2) Identification of the circumstances and  
5       mechanisms for reporting fraud, waste, abuse, and  
6       other wrongdoing to the Inspector General, including  
7       making confidential complaints to the Inspector  
8       General.

9           (3) Identification of the prohibitions and rem-  
10      edies that help to protect Department employees  
11      from retaliation when reporting wrongdoing to the  
12      Inspector General.

13          (4) Recognition of opportunities to engage with  
14      staff of the Office of the Inspector General to im-  
15      prove Department programs, operations, and serv-  
16      ices.

17      (d) DESIGN AND UPDATE.—The Inspector General of  
18      the Department shall design, and update as the Inspector  
19      General considers appropriate, the training developed and  
20      required by subsection (a).

21      (e) SYSTEM.—The Secretary shall provide, via the  
22      talent management system of the Department, or suc-  
23      cessor system, the training developed and required under  
24      subsection (a).

1 (f) RELATION TO CERTAIN TRAINING.—The Sec-  
2 retary shall ensure that training developed and required  
3 under subsection (a) is separate and distinct from training  
4 provided under section 733 of title 38, United States  
5 Code.

6 (g) NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES.—The Secretary shall  
7 ensure that the Inspector General is afforded the oppor-  
8 tunity, not less frequently than twice each year and as  
9 frequently as the Inspector General considers appropriate  
10 under extraordinary circumstances, to use the electronic  
11 mail system of the Department to notify all authorized  
12 users of such system of the following:

13 (1) The roles and responsibilities of the employ-  
14 ees of the Department when engaging with the Of-  
15 fice of the Inspector General.

16 (2) The availability of training provided under  
17 subsection (a).

18 (3) How to access training provided under sub-  
19 section (a).

20 (4) Information about how to contact the Office  
21 of the Inspector General, including a link to any  
22 website-based reporting form of the Office.

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