

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 7299
OFFERED BY MS. MACE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening VA Cy-
3 bersecurity Act of 2022” or the “SVAC Act of 2022”.

**4 SEC. 2. INDEPENDENT CYBERSECURITY ASSESSMENT OF
5 INFORMATION SYSTEMS OF DEPARTMENT OF
6 VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

7 (a) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after
9 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
10 of Veterans Affairs shall enter into an agreement
11 with a federally funded research and development
12 center to provide the Secretary with an independent
13 cybersecurity assessment of—

14 (A) five high-impact information systems
15 of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

16 (B) the effectiveness of the information se-
17 curity program and information security man-
18 agement system of the Department.

1 (2) DETAILED ANALYSIS.—The independent cy-
2 bersecurity assessment provided under paragraph
3 (1) shall include a detailed analysis of the ability of
4 the Department—

5 (A) to ensure the confidentiality, integrity,
6 and availability of the information, information
7 systems, and devices of the Department; and

8 (B) to protect against—

9 (i) advanced persistent cybersecurity
10 threats;

11 (ii) ransomware;

12 (iii) denial of service attacks;

13 (iv) insider threats;

14 (v) threats from foreign actors, in-
15 cluding state sponsored criminals and
16 other foreign based criminals;

17 (vi) phishing;

18 (vii) credential theft;

19 (viii) cybersecurity attacks that target
20 the supply chain of the Department;

21 (ix) threats due to remote access and
22 telework activity; and

23 (x) other cyber threats.

24 (3) TYPES OF SYSTEMS.—The independent cy-
25 bersecurity assessment provided under paragraph

1 (1) shall cover on-premises, remote, cloud-based, and
2 mobile information systems and devices used by, or
3 in support of, Department activities.

4 (4) SHADOW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—The
5 independent cybersecurity assessment provided
6 under paragraph (1) shall include an evaluation of
7 the use of information technology systems, devices,
8 and services by employees and contractors of the De-
9 partment who do so without the elements of the De-
10 partment that are responsible for information tech-
11 nology at the Department knowing or approving of
12 such use.

13 (5) METHODOLOGY.—In conducting the cyber-
14 security assessment provided under paragraph (1),
15 the federally funded research and development cen-
16 ter shall take into account industry best practices
17 and the current state-of-the-art in cybersecurity
18 evaluation and review.

19 (b) PLAN.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days
21 after the date on which an independent assessment
22 is provided to the Secretary pursuant to an agree-
23 ment entered into under subsection (a) with a feder-
24 ally funded research and development center, the
25 Secretary shall submit to Congress a plan to address

1 the findings of the federally funded research and de-
2 velopment center set forth in such assessment.

3 (2) ELEMENTS.—The plan submitted under
4 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

5 (A) Improvements to the security controls
6 of the information systems of the Department
7 assessed under subsection (a) to—

8 (i) achieve the goals specified in sub-
9 paragraph (A) of paragraph (2) of such
10 subsection; and

11 (ii) protect against the threats speci-
12 fied in subparagraph (B) of such para-
13 graph.

14 (B) Improvements to the information secu-
15 rity program and information security manage-
16 ment system of the Department to achieve such
17 goals and protect against such threats.

18 (C) A cost estimate for implementing the
19 plan.

20 (D) A timeline for implementing the plan.

21 (E) Such other elements as the Secretary
22 considers appropriate.

23 (c) COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED
24 STATES EVALUATION AND REVIEW.—Not later than 180
25 days after the date of the submission of the plan under

1 subsection (b)(1), the Comptroller General of the United
2 States shall—

3 (1) commence an evaluation and review of—

4 (A) the independent cybersecurity assess-
5 ment provided under subsection (a); and

6 (B) the response of the Department to
7 such assessment; and

8 (2) provide to the Committees on Veterans' Af-
9 fairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate
10 a briefing on the results of the evaluation and re-
11 view, including any recommendations made to the
12 Secretary regarding the matters covered by the
13 briefing.

