

**SUBSTITUTE FOR THE AMENDMENT IN THE  
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 472  
OFFERED BY Mr. [Pappas](#)**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening Whistle-  
3 blower Protections at the Department of Veterans Affairs  
4 Act”.

**5 SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TRACKING  
6 AND ENFORCEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS  
7 AND SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS REGARDING  
8 WHISTLEBLOWERS.**

9       Section 323(c) of title 38, United States Code, is  
10 amended—

11           (1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the  
12 following new subparagraphs:

13           “(J) Tracking the negotiation, implementation,  
14 and enforcement of settlement agreements entered  
15 into by the Secretary regarding claims of whistle-  
16 blower retaliation, including with respect to the work  
17 of the General Counsel of the Department regarding  
18 such settlements.

1           “(K) Tracking the determinations made by the  
2       Special Counsel regarding claims of whistleblower  
3       retaliation, including—

4           “(i) any disciplinary action for the indi-  
5       vidual who engaged in whistleblower retaliation;  
6       and

7           “(ii) determinations regarding the need for  
8       settlement as identified by the Special Counsel,  
9       and any settlement resolving claims of whistle-  
10      blower retaliation entered into by the Secretary  
11      with the whistleblower.”; and

12       (2) by adding at the end the following new  
13      paragraph:

14       “(4)(A) In carrying out subparagraph (J) of para-  
15      graph (1), the Assistant Secretary shall, in consultation  
16      with the General Counsel, establish metrics and standards  
17      regarding—

18       “(i) the timely implementation of settlement  
19      agreements entered into by the Secretary regarding  
20      whistleblower retaliation; and

21       “(ii) reasonable restitution and restoration of  
22      employment, and other relief for whistleblowers; and

23       “(B) The Assistant Secretary shall establish a secure  
24      electronic system to carry out subparagraphs (J) and (K)

1 of paragraph (1) in a manner that ensures the confiden-  
2 tiality of the identity of a whistleblower.”.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the tracking and enforcement of recommendations and settlement agreements regarding whistleblowers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.”.

