

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 7083  
OFFERED BY MR. BARRETT 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 “Centralized Reim-  
3 bursement for Upgraded Innovative Service Equipment  
4 Act” or the “CRUISE Act”.

**5 SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO PROCESS FOR MAKING PAY-  
6 MENTS TO AUTOMOBILE SELLERS FOR AUTO-  
7 MOBILES PURCHASED FOR CERTAIN DIS-  
8 ABLED VETERANS.**

9 (a) TIMELINESS OF PAYMENTS.—Section 3902 of  
10 title 38, United States Code, is amended, in subsection  
11 (a)—

12 (1) by inserting “(1)” before “The Secretary”;

13 and

14 (2) by adding at the end the following new  
15 paragraph:

16 “(2) The Secretary shall—

1           “(A) make payments under this section in com-  
2           pliance with regulations prescribed under section  
3           3903(a) of title 31; and

4           “(B) in the case of any payment under this sec-  
5           tion that is not processed during the period of 30  
6           days following receipt by the Secretary of the final  
7           invoice for such payment, the Secretary shall publish  
8           in the Federal Register the number of days required  
9           to process the payment.”.

10          (b) CENTRALIZATION OF PROCESS FOR MAKING PAY-  
11          MENTS.—Such section is amended by adding at the end  
12          the following new subsection:

13           “(f)(1) The Secretary shall process payments under  
14           this section through one office of the Department that the  
15           Secretary determines has the capacity and expertise to  
16           make such payments in compliance with regulations de-  
17           scribed in subsection (a)(2).

18           “(2) The Secretary shall accurately track and resolve  
19           payments due to sellers under this section that are more  
20           than 90 days overdue.”.

21          (c) REPORTING.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
22          shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of  
23          the Senate and House of Representatives, and publish on  
24          a publicly accessible website of the Department of Vet-  
25          erans Affairs, four semiannual reports after the date of

1 the enactment of this Act, regarding the administration  
2 of section 3902 of title 38, United States Code, as amend-  
3 ed by this section. Each such report shall include, with  
4 respect to the period of six months preceding the date of  
5 the report, the following elements:

6 (1) The average and median number of days  
7 between receipt of a invoice for payment under such  
8 section by the Claims Intake Center of the Depart-  
9 ment and the day when the Secretary makes such  
10 payment, disaggregated by whether the claim was  
11 under review or being processed by—

12 (A) the Veterans Health Administration;

13 (B) the Veterans Benefits Administration;

14 or

15 (C) the seller.

16 (2) Improvements to information technology of  
17 the Department that the Secretary determines would  
18 reduce the time required for such review or proc-  
19 essing.

20 (d) GAO REPORT; BRIEFING.—

21 (1) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after  
22 the day the Secretary completes centralization under  
23 subsection (f) of section 3902 of title 38, United  
24 States Code, as added by this section, the Comp-  
25 troller General of the United States shall review

1 such centralization and publish a report containing  
2 the results of such review. Such report shall include  
3 the determinations of the Comptroller General re-  
4 garding the following:

5 (A) The capacity of the office determined  
6 by the Secretary under such subsection, to  
7 carry out processing described in such sub-  
8 section, including—

9 (i) a comprehensive assessment of em-  
10 ployees of the Department who carry out  
11 chapter 39 of such title;

12 (ii) a comprehensive skills assessment  
13 indicating what resources the Secretary re-  
14 quires to otherwise improve such cen-  
15 tralization, including additional funds, em-  
16 ployees, or contractors; and

17 (iii) a review of systems of informa-  
18 tion technology, including systems in use  
19 or to be acquired, to carry out such cen-  
20 tralization.

21 (B) Recommendations to improve such  
22 processing.

23 (C) Estimated costs to the United States  
24 to implement such recommendations.

1           (2) BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days after  
2 publishing the report under paragraph (1), the  
3 Comptroller General shall provide to the Committees  
4 on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives  
5 and Senate a briefing on such report. Such briefing  
6 shall include any response from the Secretary to the  
7 Comptroller General regarding the recommendations  
8 in the report.

9 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF**  
10 **PENSION.**

11       Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code,  
12 is amended by striking “January 31, 2033” and inserting  
13 “October 31, 2033”.

