

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the annual reports submitted to Congress with respect to the Veterans Benefits Administration and the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. MCGUIRE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the annual reports submitted to Congress with respect to the Veterans Benefits Administration and the Veterans Health Administration, 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 “VA Data Transparency  
5       and Trust Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE VET-**  
2 **ERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION AND THE**  
3 **VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.**

4 (a) VHA REPORT.—Section 7330B of title 38,  
5 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

6 **“§ 7330B. Annual report on Veterans Health Adminis-**  
7 **tration and furnishing of hospital care,**  
8 **medical services, and nursing home care**

9 “(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—During the period begin-  
10 ning on the date of the enactment of the VA Data Trans-  
11 parency and Trust Act and ending on the date that is five  
12 years after such date, the Secretary shall submit to the  
13 Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Rep-  
14 resentatives and the Senate a report on, for the calendar  
15 year preceding the calendar year during which the report  
16 is submitted—

17 “(1) the furnishing of hospital care, medical  
18 services, and nursing home care under the laws ad-  
19 ministered by the Secretary; and

20 “(2) the administration of the furnishing of  
21 such care and services by the Veterans Health Ad-  
22 ministration.

23 “(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by sub-  
24 section (a) shall include each of the following for the year  
25 covered by the report:

1           “(1) The total number of veterans who received  
2           hospital care, medical services, and nursing home  
3           care under the laws administered by the Secretary  
4           furnished by the Veterans Health Administration.

5           “(2) Information with respect to the health sta-  
6           tus of veterans described in paragraph (1), that in-  
7           cludes the rate of incidence among such veterans of  
8           major chronic conditions, disaggregated by condi-  
9           tion, including—

10                   “(A) traumatic brain injury;

11                   “(B) diabetes;

12                   “(C) cardiovascular disease; and

13                   “(D) cancer.

14           “(3) Demographic information with respect to  
15           such veterans, disaggregated by—

16                   “(A) age;

17                   “(B) period of—

18                           “(i) active military, naval, air, or  
19                           space service; or

20                           “(ii) service in a Reserve component;

21                   and

22                   “(C) sex.

23           “(4) Information with respect to furnishing of  
24           health care during the period covered by the report  
25           to—

1           “(A) veterans who served on active duty  
2           during the Post-9/11 Global Operations period  
3           (as defined in section 3105 of this title), includ-  
4           ing—

5                   “(i) a summary of conditions the Sec-  
6                   retary determines are commonly present in  
7                   such veterans;

8                   “(ii) a summary of common conditions  
9                   in such veterans that the Secretary deter-  
10                  mines have arisen since the date of the  
11                  submission of the preceding report;

12                  “(iii) an estimate of the number of  
13                  such veterans that belong to a different  
14                  priority group specified in subsection (a) of  
15                  section 1705 of this title than on the date  
16                  of the submission of the preceding report;  
17                  and

18                  “(iv) an estimate of the number of  
19                  such veterans who are enrolled in a health  
20                  insurance plan that is not a health insur-  
21                  ance plan under the laws administered by  
22                  the Secretary;

23           “(B) veterans with mental health condi-  
24           tions (including traumatic brain injury and sui-  
25           cidal ideation);

1 “(C) veterans with polytrauma;

2 “(D) veterans with spinal cord injury or  
3 dysfunction;

4 “(E) veterans with service-connected dis-  
5 abilities, including the average cost to the De-  
6 partment of furnishing such care to such vet-  
7 erans; and

8 “(F) homeless veterans, including—

9 “(i) the average age of such veterans;

10 “(ii) estimates of the geographic loca-  
11 tions of such veterans;

12 “(iii) estimates of the average dura-  
13 tion of homelessness for such veterans; and

14 “(iv) the periods during which such  
15 veterans performed active military, naval,  
16 air, or space service.

17 “(5) Information with respect to veterans who  
18 received long term care under the laws administered  
19 by the Secretary during the period covered by the  
20 report, including—

21 “(A) the demographic information of such  
22 veterans, including common chronic illnesses  
23 present in such veterans;

24 “(B) the average amount of copayments  
25 for such long term care made by such veterans;

1           “(C) a description of the types of such  
2           long term care; and

3           “(D) funding levels for State homes as of  
4           the date of the submission of the report.

5           “(6) The number of veterans who enrolled in  
6           the annual system for patient enrollment under sec-  
7           tion 1705 of this title during the period covered by  
8           the report, disaggregated by—

9           “(A) priority group specified in subsection  
10          (a) of such section;

11          “(B) age;

12          “(C) sex;

13          “(D) annual income; and

14          “(E) enrollment in a health insurance plan  
15          that is not a health insurance plan under the  
16          laws administered by the Secretary.

17          “(7) With respect to veterans described in para-  
18          graph (6), the average period of time between the  
19          date on which such a veteran was separated from ac-  
20          tive military, naval, air, or space service and the ear-  
21          lier of—

22          “(A) the date on which the veteran en-  
23          rolled in such annual system for patient enroll-  
24          ment; and

1           “(B) the date on which the veteran first  
2           received hospital care, medical services, or nurs-  
3           ing home care under the laws administered by  
4           the Secretary furnished by the Veterans Health  
5           Administration.

6           “(8) The total number of visits to facilities of  
7           the Department for hospital care, medical services,  
8           and nursing home care under laws administered by  
9           the Secretary.

10          “(9) A summary of each type of hospital care,  
11          medical service, or nursing home care under laws ad-  
12          ministered by the Secretary furnished by the Vet-  
13          erans Health Administration to veterans, includ-  
14          ing—

15               “(A) inpatient care;

16               “(B) outpatient care;

17               “(C) prescription drugs;

18               “(D) mental health care; and

19               “(E) primary care.

20          “(10) A statement of the percentage of hospital  
21          care, medical service, or nursing home care under  
22          laws administered by the Secretary furnished by the  
23          Veterans Health Administration to veterans during  
24          the period covered by the report intended to treat—

25               “(A) service-connected disabilities; and

1 “(B) non-service-connected disabilities.

2 “(11) With respect to prescription drugs and  
3 medicines furnished to veterans by the Veterans  
4 Health Administration during the period covered by  
5 the report, a statement of—

6 “(A) the total number of such prescrip-  
7 tions for such drugs and medicine dispensed to  
8 veterans—

9 “(i) during the course of inpatient  
10 care at a facility of the Department;

11 “(ii) at a community-based outpatient  
12 clinic of the Department;

13 “(iii) at a non-Department facility;  
14 and

15 “(iv) through a mail-order prescrip-  
16 tion; and

17 “(B) the average term of a prescription for  
18 each drug or medicine furnished to a veteran by  
19 the Veterans Health Administration during  
20 such period.

21 “(12) With respect to inpatient care provided to  
22 veterans at facilities of the Department—

23 “(A) the average length of stay at such a  
24 facility for a veteran in receipt of such inpatient  
25 care; and



1 “(B) the average cost to a veteran of such  
2 inpatient care.

3 “(13) A summary of diagnostic services pro-  
4 vided to veterans during by the report that in-  
5 cludes—

6 “(A) a statement of the percentage of such  
7 diagnostic services provided for—

8 “(i) a service-connected disability; and

9 “(ii) a non-service connected dis-  
10 ability; and

11 “(B) a description of conditions diagnosed  
12 pursuant to such diagnostic services,  
13 disaggregated by body system associated with  
14 such condition.

15 “(14) An assessment of the extent to which vet-  
16 erans who received hospital care, medical services,  
17 and nursing home care furnished by the Veterans  
18 Health Administration during the period covered by  
19 the report rely on the Veterans Health Administra-  
20 tion for health care, disaggregated by veterans—

21 “(A) who are—

22 “(i) younger than 65 years of age;

23 “(ii) 65 years of age or older;

24 “(iii) fully reliant on the Veterans  
25 Health Administration;

1 “(iv) partially reliant on the Veterans  
2 Health Administration; and

3 “(v) not reliant on the Veterans  
4 Health Administration;

5 “(B) who received—

6 “(i) inpatient care; and

7 “(ii) outpatient care.

8 “(15) An assessment of the quality of health  
9 care furnished to veterans by the Veterans Health  
10 Administration that includes a measurement of—

11 “(A) the incidence of hospital acquired in-  
12 fections among veterans;

13 “(B) the extent to which veterans are sat-  
14 isfied with such health care, disaggregated by  
15 such health care provided at—

16 “(i) a facility of the Department; and

17 “(ii) a non-Department facility.

18 “(16) A summary of the hospital care, medical  
19 services, and nursing home care furnished by the  
20 Veterans Health Administration—

21 “(A) required under VA MISSION Act of  
22 2018 (Public Law 115–182; 38 U.S.C. 301  
23 note);

24 “(B) required under the Honoring our  
25 PACT Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–168);

1           “(C) under section 1781 of this title, that  
2           includes an estimate of the average cost to the  
3           Department of furnishing such care,  
4           disaggregated by the age of the individual to  
5           which such care was furnished; and

6           “(D) under section 1703 of this title.

7           “(17) A summary of collections of copayments  
8           for health care under the laws administered by the  
9           Secretary that includes—

10           “(A) a statement of the percentage of such  
11           copayments made by—

12                   “(i) veterans; and

13                   “(ii) third parties; and

14           “(B) a comparison of such collections to  
15           health care billings owed to the Department.

16           “(18) Data with respect to the Medical Care  
17           Collections Fund established under section 1729A of  
18           this title that includes, with respect to the period  
19           covered by the report—

20                   “(A) an identification of the total number  
21                   of veterans from whom amounts were collected;

22                   “(B) the average amount so collected—

23                   “(i) per veteran; and

1 “(ii) per priority group specified in  
2 subsection (a) of section 1705 of this title;  
3 and

4 “(C) the total amount so collected.

5 “(19) Information with respect to physicians  
6 employed by the Veterans Health Administration,  
7 that includes—

8 “(A) the number of such physicians who  
9 are full-time employees, disaggregated by—

10 “(i) specialty; and

11 “(ii) the type of medical facility where  
12 the physician is employed;

13 “(B) the average annual salary for such  
14 physicians, including bonuses and other pay  
15 awards; and

16 “(C) for such physicians who are primary  
17 care physicians—

18 “(i) the average number of patients,  
19 adjusted for patient health status, treated  
20 per—

21 “(I) week; and

22 “(II) calendar year; and

23 “(ii) the average amount of time such  
24 physicians spend with patients during ap-  
25 pointments for primary care.

1           “(20) Information with respect to medical pro-  
2           fessionals employed by the Veterans Health Admin-  
3           istration that includes a statement of—

4                   “(A) the average number of patients such  
5                   a medical professional treats each week; and

6                   “(B) the average amount of time such phy-  
7                   sicians spend with patients during appoint-  
8                   ments for primary care.

9           “(21) An assessment of the management of fa-  
10          cilities of Veterans Health Administration that in-  
11          cludes—

12                   “(A) for each medical facility under the ju-  
13                   risdiction of the Veterans Health Administra-  
14                   tion a statement of—

15                           “(i) the date of—

16                                   “(I) the original construction;  
17                                   and

18                                   “(II) the most recent renovation  
19                                   project carried out, if applicable;

20                                   “(ii) the total square feet;

21                                   “(iii) the cost to the Department of  
22                                   regular maintenance and repairs;

23                   “(B) for each such medical facility that  
24                   provides inpatient care, the rate of occupancy;  
25                   and

1           “(C) for each such medical facility that  
2           provides outpatient care, the number of patient  
3           visits, disaggregated by type of health care pro-  
4           vided at the visit.

5           “(22) A summary of major capital spending  
6           pursuant to the administration by the Veterans  
7           Health Administration of furnishing medical care  
8           and services under the laws administered by the Sec-  
9           retary that includes a description of—

10           “(A) planned construction of new facilities;

11           “(B) planned renovation of facilities; and

12           “(C) any purchase of medical equipment  
13           that totals more than \$20,000.

14           “(23) For each priority group specified in sub-  
15           section (a) of section 1705 of this title—

16           “(A) demographic information of veterans  
17           that comprise each such priority group;

18           “(B) an assessment of the extent to which  
19           veterans that comprise each such priority group  
20           use the benefits under the laws administered by  
21           the Secretary for which such veterans are eligi-  
22           ble; and

23           “(C) an estimate of the average cost to the  
24           Department of furnishing health care under the

1 laws administered by the Secretary to veterans  
2 that comprise each such priority group.

3 “(24) The percentage of hospital care, medical  
4 services, and nursing home care provided to veterans  
5 in facilities of the Department and in non-Depart-  
6 ment facilities and any changes in such percentages  
7 compared to the year preceding the year covered by  
8 the report.

9 “(c) DATA SHARING SYSTEM.—(1) The Secretary  
10 shall develop and carry out a data sharing system to grant  
11 individuals described in paragraph (2) access to aggre-  
12 gated, anonymized data with respect to veterans and indi-  
13 viduals receiving health care furnished under laws admin-  
14 istered by the Secretary.

15 “(2) An eligible individual described in this para-  
16 graph is a researcher who meets the criteria for data secu-  
17 rity and data protection established by the Secretary in  
18 regulations for the purposes of administering the data  
19 sharing system under paragraph (1).

20 “(3) In developing the data sharing system under  
21 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider the Centers  
22 for Medicare & Medicaid Services Qualified Entity Pro-  
23 gram (commonly referred to as the ‘Medicare Data Shar-  
24 ing for Performance Measurement Program’) established

1 pursuant to section 1874(e) of the Social Security Act (42  
2 U.S.C. 1395kk(e), 1395kk-2).

3 “(4) The Secretary shall ensure that data available  
4 through such data sharing system includes—

5 “(A) each type data available under the Medi-  
6 care Data Sharing for Performance Measurement  
7 Program, where applicable;

8 “(B) data on veterans enrolled in the annual  
9 system for patient enrollment established under sec-  
10 tion 1705 of this title, including—

11 “(i) demographic data;

12 “(ii) the number of veterans that comprise  
13 each priority group specified in subsection (a)  
14 of such section; and

15 “(iii) the number of veterans with service-  
16 connected disabilities, disaggregated by level of  
17 disability rating determined by the Secretary;

18 “(C) data on visits for health care under laws  
19 administered by the Secretary furnished at facilities  
20 of the Department, including—

21 “(i) types of health care providers fur-  
22 nishing such health care during such visits;

23 “(ii) diagnostic codes associated with ill-  
24 nesses in veterans diagnosed during the course  
25 of such visits;



1           “(iii) with respect to such visits for out-  
2           patient care, an identification of the date of  
3           such visit; and

4           “(iv) with respect to such visits for inpa-  
5           tient care, an identification of the applicable ad-  
6           mission date and discharge date; and

7           “(D) data on insurance claims submitted to the  
8           Secretary for health care furnished at non-Depart-  
9           ment facilities, including—

10           “(i) provider numbers of applicable insur-  
11           ance companies;

12           “(ii) payments made by the Secretary to  
13           veterans pursuant to such claims; and

14           “(iii) payments made by veterans with re-  
15           spect to such insurance claims.

16           “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ‘hos-  
17           pital care’, ‘medical services’, ‘nursing home care’, ‘facili-  
18           ties of the Department’, and ‘non-Department facilities’  
19           have the meanings given those terms in section 1701 of  
20           this title.”.

21           (b) ADDITIONAL DATA FOR INCLUSION IN ANNUAL  
22           VBA REPORT.—Subchapter II of chapter 77 of title 38,  
23           United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the  
24           following new section (and conforming the table of sections  
25           at the beginning of such chapter accordingly):

1 **“§ 7735. Additional data for inclusion in annual re-**  
2 **port to Congress; data sharing system**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.— (1) During the period beginning  
4 on the date of the enactment of the VA Data Trans-  
5 parency and Trust Act and ending on the date that is five  
6 years after such date, the Secretary shall include in the  
7 Annual Benefits Report of the Veterans Benefits Adminis-  
8 tration the following:

9 “(A) The number of veterans in receipt of bene-  
10 fits under the laws administered by the Secretary,  
11 disaggregated by—

12 “(i) age;

13 “(ii) income level;

14 “(iii) period and length of—

15 “(I) active military, naval, air, or  
16 space service; or

17 “(II) service in a Reserve component.

18 “(B) A summary of the types of benefits under  
19 the laws administered by the Secretary furnished to  
20 veterans.

21 “(C) Demographic data with respect to veterans  
22 with service-connected disabilities, disaggregated by  
23 each schedule of disability rating specified in section  
24 1155 of this title, including—

25 “(i) age;

26 “(ii) sex;

1 “(iii) race;

2 “(iv) highest level of educational attain-  
3 ment;

4 “(v) period and length of—

5 “(I) active military, naval, air, or  
6 space service; or

7 “(II) service in a Reserve component.

8 “(D) A statement of the number of veterans  
9 with service-connected disabilities to whom the Sec-  
10 retary assigned a disability rating different from the  
11 disability rating initially assigned to the veteran.

12 “(E) The average amount of compensation  
13 under chapter 11 of this title paid to veterans—

14 “(i) with dependents;

15 “(ii) in receipt of special monthly com-  
16 pensation under subsection (r) of section 1114  
17 of this title; and

18 “(iii) with a disability rated as total by  
19 reason of unemployability under section 1164 of  
20 this title.

21 “(F) Data with respect to veterans with dis-  
22 ability ratings reevaluated by the Secretary, includ-  
23 ing—

24 “(i) the number of such veterans;

1                   “(ii) the conditions associated with such  
2                   disability ratings;

3                   “(iii) the number of such veterans as-  
4                   signed, pursuant to such reevaluation—

5                   “(I) an increased disability rating; or

6                   “(II) a decreased disability rating.

7                   “(G) For each of fiscal years 1997 through  
8                   2024, a statement of the number of reevaluations of  
9                   disability ratings initiated by the Secretary.

10                  “(H) For each condition for which a presump-  
11                  tion of service-connection is established under chap-  
12                  ter 11 of this title—

13                  “(i) the number of veterans with such con-  
14                  dition in receipt of compensation under such  
15                  chapter, disaggregated by each schedule of dis-  
16                  ability rating specified in section 1155; and

17                  “(ii) the average amount of such com-  
18                  pensation paid to such veterans.

19                  “(I) For each non-service-connected dis-  
20                  ability that is compensable under the laws ad-  
21                  ministered by the Secretary, a statement of the  
22                  average amount of compensation under  
23                  chapater 11 of this title paid to veterans with  
24                  each such non-service-connected disability.

1           “(J) Data with respect to veterans in receipt of  
2           a pension under chapter 15 of this title, including—

3                   “(i) the number of such veterans,  
4           disaggregated by—

5                           “(I) age;

6                           “(II) sex;

7                           “(III) income level;

8                           “(IV) period and length of—

9                                   “(aa) active military, naval, air,  
10                                   or space service; or

11                                   “(bb) service in a Reserve compo-  
12                                   nent;

13                   “(ii) the average period of time between  
14                   the date on which such a veteran was separated  
15                   from active military, naval, air, or space service  
16                   and the date on which the veteran received the  
17                   first payment of pension under such chapter;  
18                   and

19                           “(iii) for each of fiscal years 2000 through  
20                   2024, the average amount of pension paid to  
21                   such veterans.

22           “(K) Data with respect to individuals in receipt  
23           of dependency and indemnity compensation under  
24           chapter 13 of this title, including—

25                   “(i) demographic data; and

1                   “(ii) a summary of the reasons such indi-  
2                   viduals are eligible for such dependency and in-  
3                   demnity compensation.

4                   “(L) The number of new claims for disability  
5                   compensation under the laws administered by the  
6                   Secretary, and the average period of time between  
7                   the date on which such claim was submitted and the  
8                   date on which the Secretary issued a decision with  
9                   respect to such claim.

10                  “(M) The number of supplemental claims for  
11                  disability compensation under such laws, and the av-  
12                  erage period of time between the date on which such  
13                  claim was submitted and the date on which the Sec-  
14                  retary issued a decision with respect to such claim.

15                  “(N) Data on the staffing levels of the Veterans  
16                  Benefits Administration, including the number of  
17                  full-time employees of the Veterans Benefits Admin-  
18                  istration responsible for processing such claims for  
19                  disability compensation.

20                  “(O) A statement, for each of fiscal years 2000  
21                  through 2024, of the average amount of disability  
22                  compensation under chapter 11 of this title paid to  
23                  veterans with service-connected disabilities,  
24                  disaggregated by each schedule of rating specified in  
25                  section 1155 of this title.

1 “(2)(A) The first report submitted pursuant to sub-  
2 section (a) shall include each element specified in para-  
3 graphs (1) through (15) of such subsection for—

4 “(i) the calendar year during which the first re-  
5 port is submitted; and

6 “(ii) each calendar year during the five-year pe-  
7 riod that precedes the date of the submission of the  
8 first report.

9 “(B) Each report submitted after the date on which  
10 the first report is submitted shall include each such ele-  
11 ment for the calendar year during which the report is sub-  
12 mitted.

13 “(b) DATA SHARING SYSTEM.—(1) During the pe-  
14 riod the requirement under subsection (a) is in effect, the  
15 Secretary shall develop and carry out a data sharing sys-  
16 tem to grant eligible individuals described in paragraph  
17 (2) access to individual-level, anonymized data with re-  
18 spect to individuals in receipt of benefits furnished by the  
19 Under Secretary for Benefits.

20 “(2) An eligible individual described in this para-  
21 graph is researcher who meets the criteria for data secu-  
22 rity and data protection established by the Secretary in  
23 regulations for the purposes of administering the data  
24 sharing system under paragraph (1).

1       “(3) Data available through such data sharing sys-  
2 tem shall include, for each individual in receipt of benefits  
3 furnished by the Under Secretary for Benefits—

4           “(A) demographic information, including—

5               “(i) age;

6               “(ii) sex;

7               “(iii) race;

8               “(iv) period and length of—

9                   “(I) active military, naval, air, or  
10 space service; or

11                   “(II) service in a Reserve component;

12               “(v) branch of service in the Armed  
13 Forces;

14               “(vi) number of dependents; and

15               “(vii) State of residence;

16           “(B) information with respect to each service-  
17 connected disability for which the individual has  
18 filed a claim for disability compensation under laws  
19 administered by the Secretary, including—

20               “(i) whether such claim was—

21                   “(I) approved by the Secretary; or

22                   “(II) denied by the Secretary;

23               “(ii) the diagnostic code for the service-  
24 connected disability; and

25               “(iii) the date on which—



1 “(I) the individual filed such claim;

2 and

3 “(II) the Secretary issued a decision

4 under section 511 of this title with respect

5 to such claim; and

6 “(C) a description of any compensation under

7 the laws administered by the Secretary receives on

8 annual basis, including—

9 “(i) disability compensation;

10 “(ii) dependency and indemnity compensa-

11 tion;

12 “(iii) educational benefits;

13 “(iv) benefits under chapter 37 of this

14 title;

15 “(v) special monthly compensation under

16 subsection (r) of section 1114 of this title; and

17 “(vi) compensation for a disability rated as

18 total by reason of unemployability under section

19 1164 of this title.

20 “(4) In carrying out such data sharing system, the

21 Secretary shall ensure that—

22 “(A) no personally-identifiable information

23 about an individual in receipt of benefits furnished

24 by the Under Secretary for Benefits is accessible

25 through such data sharing system; and

1           “(B) each individual about whom data is avail-  
2           able under the data sharing system is assigned a  
3           unique identifier for use in such data sharing sys-  
4           tem.”.