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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish annual mental health consultations to certain veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M____. _____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish annual mental health consultations to certain veterans, 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 Mental Health
5 Outreach and Engagement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATIONS AND OUTREACH**
2 **TO A VETERAN RECEIVING COMPENSATION**
3 **FOR A SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY RE-**
4 **LATING TO A MENTAL HEALTH DIAGNOSIS.**

5 (a) ANNUAL CONSULTATION; OUTREACH.—The sec-
6 tion 1167 of title 38, United States Code, relating to men-
7 tal health consultations is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a), in the subsection heading,
9 by striking “IN GENERAL” and inserting “INITIAL
10 CONSULTATION”;

11 (2) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as
12 subsections (c) and (d), respectively;

13 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
14 lowing new subsection (b):

15 “(b) ANNUAL CONSULTATION; OUTREACH.—Not less
16 frequently than once each year, the Secretary shall, with
17 regards to a veteran who is receiving compensation under
18 this chapter for a service-connected disability relating to
19 a mental health diagnosis—

20 “(1) offer a mental health consultation to as-
21 sess the mental health needs of, and discuss other
22 mental health care options for, the veteran; and

23 “(2) conduct outreach regarding the availability
24 of—

25 “(A) consultations under paragraph (1);
26 and

1 “(B) other mental health services fur-
2 nished by the Secretary.”;

3 (4) in subsection (c), as redesignated by para-
4 graph (2), by inserting “or (b)” after “under sub-
5 section (a)” both places it appears; and

6 (5) in subsection (d), as redesignated by para-
7 graph (2), by inserting “, or to require the reevalua-
8 tion of any entitlement of the veteran to compensa-
9 tion under this chapter” before the period at the
10 end.

11 (b) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—

12 (1) REDESIGNATION.—Such section, as amend-
13 ed, is redesignated as section 1169 of such title.

14 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of sec-
15 tions at the beginning of chapter 11 of such title is
16 amended—

17 (A) by striking the item relating to the sec-
18 tion 1167 that relates to mental health con-
19 sultations; and

20 (B) by inserting after the item relating to
21 section 1168 the following new item:

“1169. Mental health consultations.”.

22 (c) GAO REVIEW.—Not later than two years after
23 the date of the enactment of this section, the Comptroller
24 General of the United States shall submit to the Commit-
25 tees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Rep-

1 representatives a report on the effect of the amendments
2 made by this section. Elements of such report shall in-
3 clude—

4 (1) the number of veterans who received—

5 (A) mental health consultations under
6 paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of section 1169
7 of such title; and

8 (B) outreach under paragraph (2) of such
9 subsection;

10 (2) whether veterans reported barriers to seek-
11 ing such consultations; and

12 (3) such barriers, if any.