

.....
(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain information publicly available on one internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain information publicly available on one internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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 Quality Health
5 Care Accountability and Transparency Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVED TRANSPARENCY BY DEPARTMENT OF**
2 **VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

3 (a) PUBLICATION OF STAFFING AND QUALITY OF
4 CARE DATA.—Not later than one year after the date of
5 the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Af-
6 fairs shall make publicly available on the Access to Care
7 internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs (or
8 a successor website) the information under subsection (b).

9 (b) INFORMATION INCLUDED.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The information published
11 on the internet website under subsection (a) shall in-
12 clude—

13 (A) any numeric indicators relating to
14 timely care, effective care, safety, and veteran-
15 centered care that the Secretary collects at
16 medical facilities of the Department pursuant
17 to section 1703C of title 38, United States
18 Code;

19 (B) the staffing and vacancy information
20 required by subparagraphs (A) through (D) of
21 section 505(a)(1) of the VA MISSION Act of
22 2018 (Public Law 115–182; 38 U.S.C. 301
23 note);

24 (C) the patient wait times information re-
25 quired by subsection (a) of section 206 of the
26 Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act

1 of 2014 (Public Law 113–146; 128 Stat.
2 1780); and

3 (D) the patient safety, quality of care, and
4 outcome measures required by subsection (b) of
5 such section.

6 (2) UPDATES.—The Secretary shall regularly
7 update the internet website under subsection (a) to
8 ensure that the information under paragraph (1) is
9 the most current information required by the provi-
10 sions of law specified in such paragraph.

11 (c) REQUIREMENTS OF INTERNET WEBSITE.—In ad-
12 dition to the requirements of section 206(b)(4) of the Vet-
13 erans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014
14 (Public Law 113–146; 128 Stat. 1781), the Secretary
15 shall ensure that the internet website under subsection (a)
16 meets the following requirements:

17 (1) The internet website is directly accessible
18 from—

19 (A) the main homepage of the publicly ac-
20 cessible internet website of the Department;
21 and

22 (B) the main homepage of the publicly ac-
23 cessible internet website of each medical center
24 of the Department.

1 (2) Where practicable, the internet website is
2 organized and searchable by each medical center of
3 the Department.

4 (3) The internet website is easily understand-
5 able and usable by the general public.

6 (d) CONSULTATION AND CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—In
7 carrying out subsection (c)(3), the Secretary—

8 (1) shall consult with veterans service organiza-
9 tions; and

10 (2) may enter into a contract to design the
11 internet website under subsection (a) with a com-
12 pany, non-profit entity, or other entity, specializing
13 in website design that has substantial experience in
14 presenting health care data and information in a
15 easily understandable and usable manner to patients
16 and consumers.

17 (e) ACCURACY OF DATA.—

18 (1) ANNUAL PROCESS.—Not later than 18
19 months after the date of the enactment of this Act,
20 the Secretary shall develop and implement an annual
21 process to audit a generalizable subset of the data
22 contained in the internet website under subsection
23 (a) to assess the accuracy and completeness of the
24 data.

1 (2) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall ensure that
2 each audit under subsection (a)—

3 (A) determines the extent that the medical
4 record information, clinical information, data,
5 and documentation provided by each medical
6 center of the Department that is used to cal-
7 culate the information under subsection (b) is
8 accurate and complete;

9 (B) identifies any deficiencies in the re-
10 cording of medical record information, clinical
11 information, or data by medical centers of the
12 Department that affects the accuracy and com-
13 pleteness of the information under subsection
14 (b); and

15 (C) provides recommendations to medical
16 centers of the Department on how to—

17 (i) improve the accuracy and com-
18 pleteness of the medical record informa-
19 tion, clinical information, data, and docu-
20 mentation that is used to calculate the in-
21 formation under subsection (b); and

22 (ii) ensure that each medical center of
23 the Department provides such information
24 in a uniform manner.

1 (3) INDEPENDENT VALIDATION.—The Sec-
2 retary shall enter into an agreement with the Inspec-
3 tor General of the Department, or an entity other
4 than the Department selected by the Secretary, to
5 validate each audit under subsection (a).

6 (4) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than two
7 years after the date of the enactment of this Act,
8 and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit
9 to Congress a report on the findings of each audit
10 under paragraph (1), including the independent vali-
11 dation of the audit conducted under paragraph (3).

12 (f) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.—Not later
13 than three years after the date of the enactment of this
14 Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall
15 conduct a review of the internet website under subsection
16 (a) to assess the degree to which the Secretary is com-
17 plying with this section and to provide recommendations
18 to the Secretary on how to improve the internet website.