

Union Calendar No.

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2340

[Report No. 116-]

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide to Congress notice of any suicide or attempted suicide of a veteran in a Department of Veterans Affairs facility, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 18, 2019

Mr. ROSE of New York introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

MAY --, 2019

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italics]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on April 18, 2019]

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide to Congress notice of any suicide or attempted suicide of a veteran in a Department of Veterans Affairs facility, 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 “Fostering Intergovern-*
5 *mental Health Transparency in Veteran Suicides Act” or*
6 *“FIGHT Veteran Suicides Act”.*

7 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL NOTICE OF SUICIDES AND AT-**
8 **TEMPTED SUICIDES OF VETERANS IN DE-**
9 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILI-**
10 **TIES.**

11 *Section 1720F of title 38, United States Code, is*
12 *amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:*

13 *“(l) CONGRESSIONAL NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—(1) In*
14 *the case of the suicide or attempted suicide of any veteran*
15 *that occurs in, or on the grounds of, a Department facility,*
16 *the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’*
17 *Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives and*
18 *the Senators and member of Congress representing the dis-*
19 *trict in which the facility is located and the Senators and*
20 *member of Congress representing the district in which the*
21 *veteran resides the following notices:*

22 *“(A) Not later than seven days after the date on*
23 *which the suicide or attempted suicide occurs, notice*
24 *of—*

25 *“(i) the suicide or attempted suicide; and*

1 “(i) the name of the facility and location
2 where the suicide or attempted suicide occurred.

3 “(B) Subject to subparagraph (C), not later than
4 60 days after such date, notice of the following infor-
5 mation (if available) regarding the veteran who com-
6 mitted or attempted to commit suicide:

7 “(i) The enrollment status of the veteran
8 with respect to the patient enrollment system of
9 the Department under section 1705 of this title.

10 “(ii) The most recent encounter between the
11 veteran and any employee or facility of the Vet-
12 erans Health Administration before the suicide
13 or attempted suicide occurred.

14 “(iii) Whether the veteran had other med-
15 ical insurance or coverage (including TRICARE,
16 Medicare, and Medicaid).

17 “(iv) The Armed Force in which the veteran
18 served.

19 “(v) The time period when the veteran
20 served in the Armed Forces.

21 “(vi) The age of the veteran.

22 “(vii) The marital status of the veteran.

23 “(viii) The employment status of the vet-
24 eran.

25 “(ix) The housing status of the veteran.

1 “(x) *The gender identity of the veteran.*

2 “(xi) *The sexual orientation of the veteran.*

3 “(xii) *The race of the veteran.*

4 “(xiii) *Confirmation that the Secretary has*
5 *provided notice to the immediate family mem-*
6 *bers of the veteran regarding any Department*
7 *support or assistance for which such family*
8 *members may be eligible.*

9 “(C) *In collecting and reporting information*
10 *under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall take all*
11 *steps the Secretary determines necessary to respect the*
12 *privacy and dignity of the veteran and the family of*
13 *the veteran.*

14 “(2) *Each notice submitted under subparagraph (A)*
15 *or (B) of paragraph (1) shall include a copy of guidance*
16 *developed by the Secretary for purposes of dissemination*
17 *that is designed to—*

18 “(A) *deter the sensationalism of suicide;*

19 “(B) *provide information regarding warning*
20 *signs that are often exhibited by veterans at risk of*
21 *suicide; and*

22 “(C) *provide notice of the resources the Depart-*
23 *ment offers to veterans who may be at risk of suicide,*
24 *including the Veterans Crisis Line and readjustment*
25 *counseling provided through Vet Centers.”.*