

Union Calendar No.

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4477

[Report No. 116-]

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a plan to address certain high risk areas identified by the Comptroller General of the United States regarding the Department of Veterans Affairs in the 2019 High-Risk List of the Government Accountability Office, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

Mr. PAPPAS (for himself and Mr. BERGMAN) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

OCTOBER --, 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 September 24, 2019]

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a plan to address certain high risk areas identified by the Comptroller General of the United States regarding the Department of Veterans Affairs in the 2019 High-Risk List of the Government Accountability Office, 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 “Reducing High Risk*
5 *to Veterans and Veterans Services Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. REPORT AND PLANNED ACTIONS OF THE SEC-**
7 **RETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO ADDRESS**
8 **CERTAIN HIGH-RISK AREAS OF THE DEPART-**
9 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

10 *(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days*
11 *after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary*
12 *of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Comptroller*
13 *General of the United States, shall submit to the Commit-*
14 *tees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Rep-*
15 *resentatives a report outlining the plan the Secretary has*
16 *developed and the actions the Secretary has taken to address*
17 *the areas of concern identified by the Comptroller General*
18 *for the Department of Veterans Affairs in the 2019 High-*
19 *Risk List of the Government Accountability Office (GAO-*
20 *19-157SP) regarding—*

21 *(1) acquisition management; and*

22 *(2) managing risks and improving health care.*

23 *(b) ELEMENTS.—The report under subsection (a) shall*
24 *include each of the following:*

1 (1) *Root causes of the areas of concern described*
2 *in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).*

3 (2) *Corrective actions and specific steps to ad-*
4 *dress each root cause, including—*

5 (A) *the progress of the Secretary in imple-*
6 *menting those actions and steps; and*

7 (B) *timelines and milestones the Secretary*
8 *determines feasible to complete each corrective*
9 *action.*

10 (3) *Resources the Secretary determines are nec-*
11 *essary to implement corrective actions, including—*

12 (A) *funding;*

13 (B) *stakeholders;*

14 (C) *technology; and*

15 (D) *senior officials responsible for imple-*
16 *menting the corrective actions and reporting re-*
17 *sults.*

18 (4) *Metrics for assessing progress in addressing*
19 *the areas of concern described in paragraphs (1) and*
20 *(2) of subsection (a).*

21 (5) *Key outcomes that demonstrate progress in*
22 *addressing the areas of concern described in para-*
23 *graphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).*

24 (6) *Obstacles to implementation of the plan that*
25 *the Secretary identifies.*

1 (7) *Recommendations of the Secretary regarding*
2 *legislation or funding the Secretary determines nec-*
3 *essary to implement the plan.*

4 (8) *Any other information the Secretary deter-*
5 *mines is relevant to understanding the progress of the*
6 *Department toward the removal of the areas of con-*
7 *cern from the High Risk List.*

8 (c) *ANNUAL UPDATES.*—

9 (1) *UPDATE REQUIRED.*—*Not less than once each*
10 *year during the implementation period under para-*
11 *graph (2), the Secretary shall submit to Congress an*
12 *update regarding implementation of each element of*
13 *the plan under subsection (b).*

14 (2) *IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD.*—*The implemen-*
15 *tation period described in this paragraph begins on*
16 *the date on which the Secretary submits the report re-*
17 *quired under subsection (a) and ends on the earlier*
18 *of the following dates:*

19 (A) *The date on which the Comptroller Gen-*
20 *eral removes the last area of concern for the De-*
21 *partment from the most recent High-Risk List of*
22 *the Government Accountability Office.*

23 (B) *The date that is eight years after the*
24 *date on which the Secretary submits the plan re-*
25 *quired under subsection (a).*

1 **SEC. 3. ANNUAL REPORT BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AF-**
2 **FAIRS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY**
3 **RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMPTROLLER GEN-**
4 **ERAL OF THE UNITED STATES PERTAINING**
5 **TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) *ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED.*—Not later than 270
7 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not
8 less than once during each of the subsequent three years,
9 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Com-
10 mittees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of
11 Representatives and to the Comptroller General of the
12 United States a report on the implementation of priority
13 recommendations of the Comptroller General that pertain
14 to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

15 (b) *CONTENTS.*—Each report submitted under sub-
16 section (a) shall include, for the period covered by the re-
17 port, the following:

18 (1) *The progress of the Secretary in imple-*
19 *menting all open priority recommendations of the*
20 *Comptroller General for the Department of Veterans*
21 *Affairs.*

22 (2) *An explanation for each instance where the*
23 *Secretary has decided not to implement, or has not*
24 *fully implemented, an open priority recommendation*
25 *of the Comptroller General for the Department.*

1 (3) *A summary of the corrective actions taken*
2 *and remaining steps the Secretary plans to take to*
3 *implement open priority recommendations of the*
4 *Comptroller General.*

5 (c) *SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT CERTAIN REQUIRED*
6 *REPORTS OR WRITTEN STATEMENTS.—The report under*
7 *this section shall not be construed to supplant any report*
8 *or written statement required under section 720 of title 31,*
9 *United States Code.*