

Union Calendar No.

116TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 6589

[Report No. 116-]

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and submit to Congress a plan to address the material weakness of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 21, 2020

Mrs. LEE of Nevada introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

SEPTEMBER --, 2020

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 21, 2020]

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and submit to Congress a plan to address the material weakness of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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 “Department of Veterans*
5 *Affairs Chief Financial Officer Authority and Collaboration*
6 *Act of 2020”.*

7 **SEC. 2. PLANS FOR ADDRESSING MATERIAL WEAKNESSES**
8 **AND PROVIDING SUFFICIENT AUTHORITY TO**
9 **CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF DEPARTMENT**
10 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

11 *Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment*
12 *of this Act, and annually thereafter for each of the three*
13 *subsequent years, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, acting*
14 *through the Chief Financial Officer of the Department of*
15 *Veterans Affairs, shall submit to the appropriate congres-*
16 *sional committees—*

17 *(1) an action plan, including steps, related*
18 *timelines, costs, progress, status of implementation,*
19 *and any updates for fully addressing the material*
20 *weaknesses of the Department discussed in the Man-*
21 *agement’s Discussion and Analysis section of the fi-*
22 *nancial statements of the Department submitted to*
23 *Congress under section 3515 of title 31, United States*
24 *Code for the year preceding the year during which the*
25 *report is submitted; and*

1 (2) *a plan outlining the steps the Secretary*
2 *plans to take to address the recommendations of audi-*
3 *tors related to entity-level internal controls and to*
4 *provide sufficient authority to the Chief Financial Of-*
5 *ficer of the Department to carry out the requirements*
6 *of section 902 of title 31, United States Code.*

7 **SEC. 3. CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER ATTESTATION.**

8 *Concurrent with the submittal to Congress of the Presi-*
9 *dent's budget request under section 1105 of title 31, United*
10 *States Code, for fiscal year 2022 and each of the next three*
11 *subsequent fiscal years, the Chief Financial Officer of the*
12 *Department of Veterans affairs shall submit to the appro-*
13 *priate congressional committees each of the following:*

14 (1) *A certification of the responsibility of the*
15 *Chief Financial Officer for internal financial controls*
16 *of the Department.*

17 (2) *An attestation that the Chief Financial Offi-*
18 *cer has collaborated sufficiently with the subordinate*
19 *chief financial officers of the Department to be con-*
20 *fident in the financial projections included the budget*
21 *request and supporting materials.*

22 **SEC. 4. CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER RESPONSIBILITY FOR**
23 **SUBORDINATE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS.**

24 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*In accordance with the responsibil-*
25 *ities of the Chief Financial Officer of the Department of*

1 *Veterans Affairs for the recruitment, selection, and training*
2 *of personnel to carry out agency financial management*
3 *functions pursuant to section 902(a)(5)(C) of title 31,*
4 *United States Code, the Chief Financial Officer or the des-*
5 *ignee of the Chief Financial Officer within the Office of*
6 *Management of the Department shall—*

7 (1) *participate in the interview and selection*
8 *panels of all subordinate chief financial officers; and*

9 (2) *give input into the performance plans and*
10 *performance evaluations of all subordinate chief fi-*
11 *nancial officers.*

12 (b) *TERMINATION.—The requirements under sub-*
13 *section (a) shall terminate on the date that is five years*
14 *after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

15 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

16 *In this Act:*

17 (1) *The term “appropriate congressional com-*
18 *mittees” means the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of*
19 *the Senate and the House of Representatives and the*
20 *Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the*
21 *House of Representatives.*

22 (2) *The term “subordinate chief financial offi-*
23 *cer”—*

24 (A) *includes—*

1 (i) the chief financial officer of the Vet-
2 erans Health Administration, the chief fi-
3 nancial officer of the Office of Community
4 Care within the Veterans Health Adminis-
5 tration, and all chief financial officers of
6 Veterans Integrated Service Networks with-
7 in the Veterans Health Administration;

8 (ii) the chief financial officer of the
9 Veterans Benefits Administration and all
10 chief financial officers of organizational
11 subdivisions representing business lines
12 within the Veterans Benefits Administra-
13 tion;

14 (iii) the chief financial officer of the
15 National Cemetery Administration; and

16 (iv) the chief financial officer of the Of-
17 fice of Information and Technology; and

18 (B) does not include the Inspector General.