

Union Calendar No. 796

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 1089

[Report No. 118-947]

To require directors of medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit annual fact sheets to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the status of such facilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 17, 2023

Mrs. LESKO (for herself and Ms. LEE of Nevada) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

DECEMBER 24, 2024

Additional sponsors: Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr.
EZELL, and Ms. SPANBERGER

DECEMBER 24, 2024

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 italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on February 17, 2023]

A BILL

To require directors of medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit annual fact sheets to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the status of such facilities, 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 Medical Center Fa-*
5 *cility Transparency Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. INFORMATION ON MEDICAL FACILITIES OF THE DE-**
7 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

8 *(a) FACT SHEETS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs*
9 *shall ensure that each director of a medical center of the*
10 *Department of Veterans Affairs submits to the Secretary,*
11 *the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Rep-*
12 *resentatives and the Senate, and the appropriate Members*
13 *of Congress the following:*

14 *(1) An annual concise, easy-to-read fact sheet*
15 *containing, with respect to the year covered by the*
16 *fact sheet each of the following:*

17 *(A) Statistics regarding—*

18 *(i) the number of veterans who were*
19 *treated at a medical facility of the Depart-*
20 *ment under the jurisdiction of the director;*

21 *(ii) the number of appointments con-*
22 *ducted by each such facility;*

23 *(iii) the most common illnesses or con-*
24 *ditions for which treatment was furnished;*

1 (iv) the satisfaction of veterans who
2 were treated at each such facility;

3 (v) how each such facility compares
4 with other facilities with respect to the sat-
5 isfaction of veterans who were treated at the
6 facilities; and

7 (vi) other matters the director deter-
8 mines appropriate.

9 (B) A description of any successes or
10 achievements experienced by such facilities, in-
11 cluding—

12 (i) actions taken to improve such fa-
13 cilities;

14 (ii) actions taken to improve the access
15 to and quality of the care provided at such
16 facilities; and

17 (iii) any other accomplishments deter-
18 mined appropriate by the director.

19 (C) A description of special areas of empha-
20 sis or specialization by such facilities, such as ef-
21 forts aimed at meeting the needs of women vet-
22 erans, suicide prevention and other mental
23 health initiatives, opioid abuse prevention and
24 pain management, or special efforts on veteran

1 *homelessness, or other matters as the director de-*
2 *termines appropriate.*

3 *(D) A description of matters concerning*
4 *such facilities that have previously been identi-*
5 *fied as deficient and needing remediation that*
6 *are still in need of such remediation.*

7 *(2) A quarterly fact sheet containing, with re-*
8 *spect to the quarter covered by the fact sheet, the aver-*
9 *age wait time for veterans to receive treatment at the*
10 *medical facility of the Department under the jurisdic-*
11 *tion of the director.*

12 *(b) AVAILABILITY.—Each fact sheet under subsection*
13 *(a) shall be made publicly available—*

14 *(1) in a physical form at the relevant medical*
15 *facility of the Department in a conspicuous location;*
16 *and*

17 *(2) in an electronic form on the internet website*
18 *of the facility.*

19 *(c) TIMING OF FACT SHEETS.—The fact sheets under*
20 *subsection (a) shall be submitted during the first fiscal year*
21 *beginning after the date that is 180 days after the date of*
22 *the enactment of this Act and not less frequently than—*

23 *(1) once each fiscal year thereafter with respect*
24 *to the annual fact sheet under paragraph (1) of such*
25 *subsection; and*

1 (2) *once each fiscal quarter thereafter with re-*
2 *spect to the quarterly fact sheet under paragraph (2)*
3 *of such subsection.*

4 (d) *STANDARDIZED FORMAT.—The Secretary shall es-*
5 *tablish a standard format for the fact sheets under sub-*
6 *section (a) to ensure that each director of a medical center*
7 *of the Department carries out such subsection in a con-*
8 *sistent manner.*

9 (e) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

10 (1) *The term “appropriate Members of Congress”*
11 *means, with respect to a medical facility of the De-*
12 *partment of Veterans Affairs about which a fact sheet*
13 *is submitted under subsection (a), the Senators rep-*
14 *resenting the State, and the Member, Delegate, or*
15 *Resident Commissioner of the House of Representa-*
16 *tives representing the district, that includes the facil-*
17 *ity.*

18 (2) *The term “State” means each of the several*
19 *States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth*
20 *of Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession of the*
21 *United States.*

1 **SEC. 3. REQUIREMENT FOR TIMELY SCHEDULING OF AP-**
2 **POINTMENTS AT MEDICAL FACILITIES OF DE-**
3 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) *REQUIREMENT.*—Chapter 17 of title 38, United
5 States Code, is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating section 1706A as section
7 1706B; and

8 (2) by inserting after section 1706 the following
9 new section:

10 **“§ 1706A. Management of health care: timely sched-**
11 **uling of appointments at Department fa-**
12 **cilities**

13 “(a) *REQUIREMENT FOR SCHEDULING.*—In managing
14 the provision of hospital care and medical services at med-
15 ical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs under
16 this chapter, the Secretary shall ensure that whenever a cov-
17 ered veteran contacts the Department by telephone to re-
18 quest the scheduling of an appointment for care or services
19 for the covered veteran at such a facility, the scheduling
20 for the appointment occurs during that telephone call (re-
21 gardless of the prospective date of the appointment being
22 scheduled).

23 “(b) *COVERED VETERAN DEFINED.*—In this section,
24 the term ‘covered veteran’ means a veteran who is enrolled
25 in the system of patient enrollment of the Department under
26 section 1705(a) of this title.”.

1 (b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—*The table of sections at*
2 *the beginning of such chapter is amended by striking the*
3 *item relating to section 1706A and inserting the following*
4 *new items:*

 “1706A. *Management of health care: timely scheduling of appointments at Department facilities.*

 “1706B. *Remediation of medical service lines.*”.

5 (c) *APPLICABILITY.*—*The amendments made by sub-*
6 *section (a) shall apply with respect to requests for appoint-*
7 *ment scheduling occurring on or after the date that is 180*
8 *days after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

9 **SEC. 4. LIMITATION ON DETAIL OF DIRECTORS OF MEDICAL**
10 **CENTERS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
11 **FAIRS TO DIFFERENT POSITIONS.**

12 (a) *NOTIFICATION.*—

13 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 90 days after*
14 *detailing a director of a medical center of the Depart-*
15 *ment of Veterans Affairs to a different position within*
16 *the Department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs*
17 *shall notify the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the*
18 *Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the*
19 *House of Representatives of such detail.*

20 (2) *MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.*—*The notifica-*
21 *tion required by paragraph (1) shall include, with re-*
22 *spect to a director of a medical center who is detailed*
23 *to a different position within the Department, the fol-*
24 *lowing information:*

1 (A) *The location at which the director is de-*
2 *tailed.*

3 (B) *The position title of the detail.*

4 (C) *The estimated time the director is ex-*
5 *pected to be absent from their duties at the med-*
6 *ical center.*

7 (D) *Such other information as the Secretary*
8 *may determine appropriate.*

9 (b) *APPOINTMENT OF ACTING DIRECTOR.—Not later*
10 *than 120 days after detailing a director of a medical center*
11 *of the Department to a different position within the Depart-*
12 *ment, the Secretary shall appoint an individual as acting*
13 *director of such medical center with all of the authority and*
14 *responsibilities of the detailed director.*

15 (c) *UPDATE ON DETAIL.—Not later than 120 days*
16 *after detailing a director of a medical center of the Depart-*
17 *ment to a different position within the Department, and*
18 *not less frequently than every 30 days thereafter while the*
19 *detail is in effect or while the director position at the med-*
20 *ical center is vacant, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-*
21 *mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee*
22 *on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives an up-*
23 *date regarding the status of the detail.*

24 (d) *RETURN TO POSITION OR REASSIGNMENT.—*

1 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Except as provided in para-*
2 *graph (2), not later than 180 days after detailing a*
3 *director of a medical center of the Department to a*
4 *different position within the Department, for a reason*
5 *other than an ongoing investigation or administrative*
6 *action with respect to the director, the Secretary*
7 *shall—*

8 (A) *return the individual to the position as*
9 *director of the medical center; or*

10 (B) *reassign the individual from the posi-*
11 *tion as director of the medical center and begin*
12 *the process of hiring a new director for such po-*
13 *sition.*

14 (2) *WAIVER.*—

15 (A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary may*
16 *waive the requirement under paragraph (1) with*
17 *respect to an individual for successive 90-day in-*
18 *crements for a total period of not more than 540*
19 *days from the original date the individual was*
20 *detailed away from their position as director of*
21 *a medical center.*

22 (B) *NOTIFICATION.*—*Not later than 30 days*
23 *after exercising a waiver under subparagraph*
24 *(A), the Secretary shall notify Congress of the*

1 *waiver and provide to Congress information as*
2 *to why the waiver is necessary.*

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