

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4477

AN ACT

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 ad-
17 dress the areas of concern identified by the Comptroller
18 General for the Department of Veterans Affairs in the
19 2019 High-Risk List of the Government Accountability
20 Office (GAO–19–157SP) regarding—

21 (1) acquisition management; and

22 (2) managing risks and improving health care.

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

1 (1) Root causes of the areas of concern de-
2 scribed 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
25 that the Secretary identifies.

1 (7) Recommendations of the Secretary regard-
2 ing legislation or funding the Secretary determines
3 necessary to implement the plan.

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

8 (c) ANNUAL UPDATES.—

9 (1) UPDATE REQUIRED.—Not less than once
10 each year during the implementation period under
11 paragraph (2), the Secretary shall submit to Con-
12 gress an update regarding implementation of each
13 element of 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
17 required under subsection (a) and ends on the ear-
18 lier of the following dates:

19 (A) The date on which the Comptroller
20 General removes the last area of concern for
21 the Department from the most recent High-
22 Risk List of the Government Accountability Of-
23 fice.

1 (B) The date that is 8 years after the date
2 on which the Secretary submits the plan re-
3 quired under subsection (a).

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

9 (a) ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than
10 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and
11 not less than once during each of the subsequent 3 years,
12 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Com-
13 mittees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of
14 Representatives and to the Comptroller General of the
15 United States a report on the implementation of priority
16 recommendations of the Comptroller General that pertain
17 to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

18 (b) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under sub-
19 section (a) shall include, for the period covered by the re-
20 port, the following:

21 (1) The progress of the Secretary in imple-
22 menting all open priority recommendations of the
23 Comptroller General for the Department of Veterans
24 Affairs.

1 (2) An explanation for each instance where the
2 Secretary has decided not to implement, or has not
3 fully implemented, an open priority recommendation
4 of the Comptroller General for the Department.

5 (3) A summary of the corrective actions taken
6 and remaining steps the Secretary plans to take to
7 implement open priority recommendations of the
8 Comptroller General.

9 (c) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT CERTAIN RE-
10 QUIRED REPORTS OR WRITTEN STATEMENTS.—The re-
11 port under this section shall not be construed to supplant
12 any report or written statement required under section
13 720 of title 31, United States Code.

 Passed the House of Representatives November 12,
2019.

Attest:

Clerk.

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