

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8172

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use accredited commercial institutional review boards to review research proposal protocols of the Department, and to establish an Office of Research Reviews in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 4, 2020

Mrs. LURIA (for herself and Mr. BANKS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use accredited commercial institutional review boards to review research proposal protocols of the Department, and to establish an Office of Research Reviews in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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 Research Tech-
5 nology Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. USE BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF**
2 **COMMERCIAL INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW**
3 **BOARDS IN SPONSORED RESEARCH TRIALS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
6 erans Affairs shall complete all necessary policy revisions
7 within the directive of the Veterans Health Administration
8 numbered 1200.05 and titled “Requirements for the Pro-
9 tection of Human Subjects in Research”, to allow spon-
10 sored clinical research of the Department of Veterans Af-
11 fairs to use accredited commercial institutional review
12 boards to review research proposal protocols of the De-
13 partment.

14 (b) IDENTIFICATION OF REVIEW BOARDS.—Not later
15 than 90 days after the completion of the policy revisions
16 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

17 (1) identify accredited commercial institutional
18 review boards for use in connection with sponsored
19 clinical research of the Department; and

20 (2) establish a process to modify existing ap-
21 provals in the event that a commercial institutional
22 review board loses its accreditation during an ongo-
23 ing clinical trial.

24 (c) REPORT.—

25 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
26 the completion of the policy revisions under sub-

1 section (a), and annually thereafter, the Secretary
2 shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs
3 of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Af-
4 fairs of the House of Representatives a report on all
5 approvals of institutional review boards used by the
6 Department, including central institutional review
7 boards and commercial institutional review boards.

8 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by para-
9 graph (1) shall include, at a minimum, the following:

10 (A) The name of each clinical trial with re-
11 spect to which the use of an institutional review
12 board has been approved.

13 (B) The institutional review board or insti-
14 tutional review boards used in the approval
15 process for each clinical trial.

16 (C) The amount of time between submis-
17 sion and approval.

18 **SEC. 3. CREATION OF OFFICE OF RESEARCH REVIEWS**
19 **WITHIN THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND**
20 **TECHNOLOGY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
21 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
23 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
24 erans Affairs shall establish within the Office of Informa-
25 tion and Technology of the Department of Veterans Af-

1 fairs an Office of Research Reviews (in this section re-
2 ferred to as the “Office”).

3 (b) ELEMENTS.—The Office shall do the following:

4 (1) Perform centralized security reviews and
5 complete security processes for approved research
6 sponsored outside the Department, with a focus on
7 multi-site clinical trials.

8 (2) Develop and maintain a list of commercially
9 available software preferred for use in sponsored
10 clinical trials of the Department and ensure such list
11 is maintained as part of the official approved soft-
12 ware products list of the Department.

13 (3) Develop benchmarks for appropriate
14 timelines for security reviews conducted by the Of-
15 fice.

16 (c) REPORT.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
18 after the establishment of the Office, the Office shall
19 submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the
20 Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of
21 the House of Representatives a report on the activity
22 of the Office.

23 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by para-
24 graph (1) shall include the following:

1 (A) The number of security reviews com-
2 pleted.

3 (B) The number of personnel assigned for
4 performing the functions described in sub-
5 section (b).

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