

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1096

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to require the employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive training developed by the Inspector General of the Department on reporting wrongdoing to, responding to requests from, and cooperating with the Office of Inspector General of the Department, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 30, 2023

Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. BOOZMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to require the employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive training developed by the Inspector General of the Department on reporting wrongdoing to, responding to requests from, and cooperating with the Office of Inspector General of the Department, 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 Vet-
5 erans Affairs Office of Inspector General Training Act of
6 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EMPLOYEE**
2 **TRAINING REGARDING OFFICE OF INSPEC-**
3 **TOR GENERAL.**

4 (a) TRAINING.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
5 shall require each employee of the Department of Veterans
6 Affairs who begins employment with the Department on
7 or after the date of the enactment of this Act to receive
8 training that the Inspector General of the Department
9 shall develop on the reporting of wrongdoing to, respond-
10 ing to requests from, and cooperating with the Office of
11 Inspector General of the Department.

12 (b) TIMING OF TRAINING.—In carrying out sub-
13 section (a), the Secretary shall require each employee of
14 the Department covered under such subsection to undergo
15 the training required by such subsection not later than
16 one year after the date on which the employee begins em-
17 ployment with the Department.

18 (c) ELEMENTS.—Training developed and required
19 under subsection (a) shall include the following:

20 (1) Definition of the role, responsibilities, and
21 legal authority of the Inspector General of the De-
22 partment and the duties of employees of the Depart-
23 ment for engaging with the Office of Inspector Gen-
24 eral.

25 (2) Identification of the circumstances and
26 mechanisms for reporting fraud, waste, abuse, and

1 other wrongdoing to the Inspector General, including
2 making confidential complaints to the Inspector
3 General.

4 (3) Identification of the prohibitions and rem-
5 edies that help to protect employees of the Depart-
6 ment from retaliation when reporting wrongdoing to
7 the Inspector General.

8 (4) Recognition of opportunities to engage with
9 staff of the Office of Inspector General to improve
10 programs, operations, and services of the Depart-
11 ment.

12 (d) DESIGN AND UPDATE.—The Inspector General of
13 the Department shall design, and update as the Inspector
14 General considers appropriate, the training developed and
15 required by subsection (a).

16 (e) SYSTEM.—The Secretary shall provide, via the
17 talent management system of the Department, or suc-
18 cessor system, the training developed and required under
19 subsection (a).

20 (f) RELATION TO CERTAIN TRAINING.—The Sec-
21 retary shall ensure that training developed and required
22 under subsection (a) is separate and distinct from training
23 provided under section 733 of title 38, United States
24 Code.

1 (g) NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES.—The Secretary shall
2 ensure that the Inspector General is afforded the oppor-
3 tunity, not less frequently than twice each year and more
4 frequently if the Inspector General considers appropriate
5 under extraordinary circumstances, to use the electronic
6 mail system of the Department to notify all authorized
7 users of such system of the following:

8 (1) The roles and responsibilities of the employ-
9 ees of the Department when engaging with the Of-
10 fice of Inspector General.

11 (2) The availability of training provided under
12 subsection (a).

13 (3) How to access training provided under sub-
14 section (a).

15 (4) Information about how to contact the Office
16 of Inspector General, including a link to any
17 website-based reporting form of the Office.

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