

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1096

AN ACT

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”.

7 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EMPLOYEE**
8 **TRAINING REGARDING OFFICE OF INSPEC-**
9 **TOR GENERAL.**

10 (a) TRAINING.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
11 shall require each employee of the Department of Veterans
12 Affairs who begins employment with the Department on
13 or after the date of the enactment of this Act to receive
14 training that the Inspector General of the Department
15 shall develop on the reporting of wrongdoing to, respond-
16 ing to requests from, and the duty of cooperating with
17 the Office of Inspector General of the Department.

18 (b) TIMING OF TRAINING.—In carrying out sub-
19 section (a), the Secretary shall require each employee of
20 the Department covered under such subsection to undergo
21 the training required by such subsection not later than
22 one year after the date on which the employee begins em-
23 ployment with the Department.

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

1 (1) Definition of the role, responsibilities, and
2 legal authority of the Inspector General of the De-
3 partment and the duties of employees of the Depart-
4 ment for engaging with the Office of Inspector Gen-
5 eral.

6 (2) Identification of Federal whistleblower pro-
7 tection rights, including the right to report fraud,
8 waste, abuse, and other wrongdoing to Congress.

9 (3) Identification of the circumstances and
10 mechanisms for reporting fraud, waste, abuse, and
11 other wrongdoing to the Inspector General, including
12 making confidential complaints to the Inspector
13 General.

14 (4) Identification of the prohibitions and rem-
15 edies that help to protect employees of the Depart-
16 ment from retaliation when reporting wrongdoing to
17 the Inspector General.

18 (5) Recognition of opportunities to engage with
19 staff of the Office of Inspector General to improve
20 programs, operations, and services of the Depart-
21 ment.

22 (6) Notification of the authority of the Inspec-
23 tor General to subpoena the attendance and testi-
24 mony of witnesses, including former employees of
25 the Department, as necessary to carry out the duties

1 of the Office of Inspector General under section 312
2 of title 38, United States Code.

3 (d) DESIGN AND UPDATE.—The Inspector General of
4 the Department shall design, and update as the Inspector
5 General considers appropriate, the training developed and
6 required by subsection (a).

7 (e) SYSTEM.—The Secretary shall provide, via the
8 talent management system of the Department, or suc-
9 cessor system, the training developed and required under
10 subsection (a).

11 (f) RELATION TO CERTAIN TRAINING.—The Sec-
12 retary shall ensure that training developed and required
13 under subsection (a) is separate and distinct from training
14 provided under section 733 of title 38, United States
15 Code.

16 (g) NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES.—The Secretary shall
17 ensure that the Inspector General is afforded the oppor-
18 tunity, not less frequently than twice each year and more
19 frequently if the Inspector General considers appropriate
20 under extraordinary circumstances, to use the electronic
21 mail system of the Department to notify all authorized
22 users of such system of the following:

23 (1) The roles and responsibilities of the employ-
24 ees of the Department when engaging with the Of-
25 fice of Inspector General.

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

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

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

Passed the Senate July 13, 2023.

Attest:

Secretary.

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