

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2778

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on competition among suppliers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

Mr. WICKER 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 submit to Congress a report on competition among suppliers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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 “Vetting for Equal
5 Treatment of Small Business Act of 2023” or the “VETS
6 Business Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. REPORT ON COMPETITION IN DEPARTMENT OF**
2 **VETERANS AFFAIRS INDUSTRIAL BASE.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
4 ings:

5 (1) The Department of Veterans Affairs offers
6 services to veterans that require the Department to
7 enter into the Federal contracting process.

8 (2) The Office of Small and Disadvantaged
9 Business Utilization (OSDBU) of the Department
10 works to develop policies and programs that improve
11 market research, increase direct access, and maxi-
12 mize the participation of procurement veteran-owned
13 small businesses and service-disabled veteran-owned
14 small businesses in Federal contracting.

15 (3) The Competition in Contracting Act of
16 1984 (Public Law 98–369; 98 Stat. 1175) was en-
17 acted to encourage competition in Government con-
18 tracts to improve savings for the Government.

19 (4) A lack of competition could artificially raise
20 costs incurred by the Department in future contract
21 decisions.

22 (b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days
23 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
24 of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Vet-
25 erans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Vet-
26 erans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report

1 on the state of competition among suppliers of the Depart-
2 ment of Veterans Affairs.

3 (c) CONTENTS.—The report submitted pursuant to
4 subsection (b) shall include the following:

5 (1) An examination of the number of contrac-
6 tors in the industrial base that supports the Depart-
7 ment.

8 (2) Identification of areas for competition with-
9 in such industrial base that need improvement.

10 (3) Identification of specific areas within the in-
11 dustrial base where competition has either increased
12 or decreased in sole source contract decisions.

13 (4) Recommendations of legislative or adminis-
14 trative action to improve competition among sup-
15 pliers of the Department.

16 (d) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the report re-
17 quired by subsection (b), the Secretary shall consult with
18 the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utiliza-
19 tion of the Department.

20 (e) MODEL.—To the degree practicable, the Sec-
21 retary shall use as a model for the report required by sub-
22 section (a) the report of the Under Secretary of Defense
23 for Acquisition and Sustainment entitled “State of Com-
24 petition within the Defense Industrial Base” and dated
25 February, 2022.

1 (f) PUBLICATION.—After submitting the report re-
2 quired by subsection (b) in accordance with such sub-
3 section, the Secretary shall make the report available to
4 the public.

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