

### 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.					

- (7) Recommendations of the Secretary regarding legislation or funding the Secretary determines necessary to implement the plan.
  - (8) Any other information the Secretary determines is relevant to understanding the progress of the Department toward the removal of the areas of concern from the High Risk List.

### (c) Annual Updates.—

- (1) UPDATE REQUIRED.—Not less than once each year during the implementation period under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall submit to Congress an update regarding implementation of each element of the plan under subsection (b).
- (2) Implementation period described in this paragraph begins on the date on which the Secretary submits the report required under subsection (a) and ends on the earlier of the following dates:
  - (A) The date on which the Comptroller General removes the last area of concern for the Department from the most recent High-Risk List of the Government Accountability Office.

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 RE10 QUIRED REPORTS OR WRITTEN STATEMENTS.—The re11 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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