

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7436

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the quality assurance program of the Veterans Benefits Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 7, 2022

Mr. CLOUD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the quality assurance program of the Veterans Benefits Administration of 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. IMPROVEMENTS TO QUALITY ASSURANCE PRO-**  
4 **GRAM.**

5 (a) PLAN FOR OVERSIGHT.—

6 (1) REQUIREMENT.—Section 7731 of title 38,  
7 United States Code, is amended by adding at the  
8 end the following new subsection:

9 “(d)(1) The Secretary shall—

1           “(A) develop and carry out a plan to strengthen  
2           oversight of the quality assurance program carried  
3           out under subsection (a); and

4           “(B) monitor the implementation of the plan to  
5           address any deficiencies that the Secretary identi-  
6           fies.

7           “(2) On an annual basis during the five-year period  
8           beginning on the date of the enactment of this subsection,  
9           the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’  
10          Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate  
11          a report on the implementation of the plan under para-  
12          graph (1).”.

13           (2) SUBMISSION OF PLAN.—Not later than 180  
14          days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
15          Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the  
16          Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of  
17          Representatives and the Senate the plan developed  
18          under subsection (d) of section 7731 of title 38,  
19          United States Code, as added by paragraph (1), and  
20          a description of the progress the Secretary has made  
21          to implement such plan.

22          (b) RECURRING DEFICIENCIES.—

23           (1) IDENTIFICATION AND CORRECTIVE AC-  
24          TIONS.—Section 7732 of such title is amended—

1 (A) by striking “The Under” and inserting  
2 “(a) The Under”; and

3 (B) by adding at the end the following new  
4 subsection:

5 “(b)(1) In carrying out subsection (a) with respect  
6 to quality reviews (including site visits) relating to dis-  
7 ability compensation, on an annual basis, the Under Sec-  
8 retary shall compile a list of common recurring deficiencies  
9 and action items identified each year.

10 “(2) The Under Secretary shall develop and carry out  
11 a plan to address the recurring deficiencies and action  
12 items identified under paragraph (1).”.

13 (2) INCLUSION IN ANNUAL REPORTS.—Section  
14 7734 of such title is amended—

15 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and”;

16 (B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as  
17 paragraph (4); and

18 (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the  
19 following new paragraph:

20 “(3) the list of common recurring deficiencies  
21 and action items identified under section 7732(b)(1)  
22 of this title; and”.

23 (c) GAO STUDY.—

24 (1) REQUIREMENT.—The Comptroller General  
25 of the United States shall conduct a feasibility study

1 of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs entering into a  
2 contract with a nongovernmental entity to carry out  
3 the quality assurance program under section 7731 of  
4 title 38, United States Code. The study shall include  
5 the following:

6 (A) A review of common deficiencies of the  
7 program as of the date of the study.

8 (B) Identification of both the costs and  
9 cost savings regarding a nongovernmental enti-  
10 ty carrying out the program.

11 (C) A discussion regarding how having a  
12 nongovernmental entity carry out the program  
13 may—

14 (i) address the deficiencies identified  
15 under subparagraph (A); and

16 (ii) improve the overall accuracy and  
17 timeliness of claims submitted to the De-  
18 partment of Veterans Affairs.

19 (2) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 180 days  
20 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
21 Comptroller General shall submit to the Committees  
22 on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives  
23 and the Senate the study under paragraph (1).

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