

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4183

AN ACT

To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disability and pension benefits provided to members of the National Guard and members of reserve components of the Armed Forces by 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Identifying Barriers
3 and Best Practices Study Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY ON DISABILITY**
5 **AND PENSION BENEFITS PROVIDED TO MEM-**
6 **BERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND MEM-**
7 **BERS OF RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE**
8 **ARMED FORCES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF**
9 **VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 36 months after
11 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller
12 General of the United States shall complete a study on
13 disability and pension benefits provided to members of the
14 National Guard and members of reserve components of
15 the Armed Forces by the Department of Veterans Affairs.
16 In conducting such study, the Comptroller General shall
17 review, for the period beginning on January 1, 2008, and
18 ending on December 31, 2018, each of the following:

19 (1) The number of members of the National
20 Guard and the number of members of reserve com-
21 ponents of the Armed Forces who received disability
22 compensation or pension provided by the Depart-
23 ment of Veterans Affairs.

24 (2) A comparison of each of the following be-
25 tween veterans who served only in the National
26 Guard or reserve components and veterans who

1 served in the regular components of the Armed
2 Forces:

3 (A) The percentage of each group of such
4 veterans with service-connected disabilities.

5 (B) The number of veterans in each group
6 with each disability rating.

7 (C) The number of veterans in each group
8 with a service-connected disability, including the
9 number of each of the following types of such
10 veterans in each group:

11 (i) Pilots.

12 (ii) Veterans who served in the special
13 forces.

14 (iii) Veterans who participated in the
15 Personnel Reliability Program.

16 (iv) Veterans who underwent diving or
17 flight physicals as a regular component of
18 their service in the Armed Forces and who
19 have a muscular-skeletal or mental health
20 condition.

21 (D) The number of total claims for dis-
22 ability compensation and pension submitted, ap-
23 proved, and disapproved for each group of vet-
24 erans.

1 (3) An identification of common barriers for
2 members of the National Guard and members of re-
3 serve components in obtaining disability benefits
4 under the laws administered by the Secretary of Vet-
5 erans Affairs, including barriers relating to docu-
6 mentation of injuries incurred while serving, such as
7 line of duty letters.

8 (b) REPORTS.—

9 (1) PRELIMINARY REPORT.—Not later than 18
10 months after the date of the enactment of this Act,
11 the Comptroller General shall submit to the Commit-
12 tees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House
13 of Representatives a preliminary report on the find-
14 ings of the study required by subsection (a).

15 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Upon completion of the
16 study, the Comptroller General shall submit to such
17 Committees a final report on such study.

Passed the House of Representatives December 17,
2019.

Attest:

Clerk.

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