

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1031

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disparities associated with race and ethnicity with respect to certain benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 25, 2021

Mr. WARNOCK introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disparities associated with race and ethnicity with respect to certain benefits administered by the Secretary 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. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE**
2 **STUDY ON DISPARITIES ASSOCIATED WITH**
3 **RACE AND ETHNICITY WITH RESPECT TO**
4 **CERTAIN BENEFITS ADMINISTERED BY THE**
5 **SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) **STUDY REQUIRED.**—The Comptroller General of
7 the United States shall conduct a study—

8 (1) to assess whether there are disparities asso-
9 ciated with race and ethnicity with respect to—

10 (A) compensation benefits administered by
11 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

12 (B) disability ratings determined by the
13 Secretary, with specific consideration of dis-
14 ability evaluations based on pain; and

15 (C) the rejection of fully developed claims
16 for benefits under laws administered by the
17 Secretary; and

18 (2) to develop recommendations to facilitate
19 better data collection on the disparities described in
20 paragraph (1).

21 (b) **INITIAL BRIEFING.**—Not later than one year
22 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comp-
23 troller General shall brief Congress on the initial results
24 of the study conducted under subsection (a).

25 (c) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than 240 days after
26 the date on which the briefing required by subsection (b)

1 is conducted, the Comptroller General shall submit to Con-
2 gress a final report setting forth the results of the study
3 conducted under subsection (a), including the rec-
4 ommendations developed under paragraph (2) of such sub-
5 section.

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