

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 7735

To require the Department of Veterans Affairs-Department of Defense Joint Executive Committee to assess the effectiveness of certain mental health activities of the Departments, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2026

Mr. GOLDEN of Maine (for himself, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. BACON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

---

## A BILL

To require the Department of Veterans Affairs-Department of Defense Joint Executive Committee to assess the effectiveness of certain mental health activities of the Departments, 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 “Improving Mental  
5 Health Support for Servicemembers and Veterans Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ASSESSMENTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**  
2 **AFFAIRS—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE JOINT**  
3 **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF CERTAIN MEN-**  
4 **TAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES.**

5 (a) OVERALL INVENTORY, ASSESSMENT, AND RE-  
6 PORT.—

7 (1) INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT.—The De-  
8 partment of Veterans Affairs—Department of De-  
9 fense Joint Executive Committee under section 320  
10 of title 38, United States Code, shall—

11 (A) complete an inventory of the programs  
12 and processes of the Departments that facilitate  
13 access to mental health services across the tran-  
14 sition spectrum; and

15 (B) conduct an assessment of the overall  
16 effectiveness of such programs and processes in  
17 facilitating access to such services.

18 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after  
19 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Joint Ex-  
20 ecutive Committee shall submit to the Committees  
21 on Veterans Affairs of the Senate and the House of  
22 Representatives a report on the results of the assess-  
23 ment. The report shall include—

24 (A) the inventory under paragraph (1)(A);

25 (B) the results of the assessment under  
26 paragraph (1)(B), including whether the assess-

1           ment identified any deficiencies, gaps, or ineffi-  
2           ciencies (such as duplicative programs);

3           (C) recommendations to address the identi-  
4           fied deficiencies, gaps, or inefficiencies, if any,  
5           including plans of action, milestones, and  
6           metrics; and

7           (D) any other information or recommenda-  
8           tions that the Joint Executive Committee con-  
9           siders appropriate.

10       (b) BIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE JOINT SEPARATION  
11 HEALTH ASSESSMENT.—Section 320(d) of title 38,  
12 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the  
13 following new paragraph:

14           “(7) Review, at least once every two years, the  
15       joint separation health assessment to validate the  
16       questions posed by the assessment and to rec-  
17       ommend whether any questions should be removed,  
18       revised, or added.”.

○