

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2264

To improve the emergency management capabilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 14, 2025

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To improve the emergency management capabilities of 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Advancing VA’s Emer-
5 gency Response to (AVERT) Crises Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. REPORT ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ROLES**
7 **FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
9 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
10 erans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’

1 Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Af-
 2 fairs of the House of Representatives a report outlining
 3 the roles and responsibilities of all offices of the Depart-
 4 ment of Veterans Affairs involved with emergency man-
 5 agement.

6 (b) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the report re-
 7 quired by subsection (a), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
 8 shall consult with the Comptroller General of the United
 9 States, the Inspector General of the Department of Vet-
 10 erans Affairs, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and
 11 such other Federal agencies as the Secretary of Veterans
 12 Affairs considers relevant, to obtain insights from their
 13 experience and trends that they have found, and such rec-
 14 ommendations as they may have with respect to the man-
 15 agement by the Department of Veterans Affairs of emer-
 16 gency management functions.

17 (c) CONTENTS.—The report submitted pursuant to
 18 subsection (a) shall include the following:

19 (1) A description of the organizational structure
 20 of each office, both during normal operations and
 21 during emergency or disaster operations.

22 (2) The roles and responsibilities of each office.

23 (3) A detailed description of roles and respon-
 24 sibilities that are shared by both the Office of Emer-
 25 gency Management of the Department and the Of-

1 fice of Operations, Security, and Preparedness of the
 2 Department, including an analysis of how each office
 3 plays a part in emergency management functions.

4 (4) Recommendations for improving the struc-
 5 ture and alignment of relevant offices to better pre-
 6 pare the Department for emergencies, remove
 7 redundancies, and improve accountability.

8 (5) An analysis of the feasibility and advis-
 9 ability of consolidating relevant offices into one cen-
 10 tralized emergency management office to improve
 11 communication and streamline emergency prepared-
 12 ness and response efforts of the Department.

13 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON REGIONAL READINESS CENTERS OF**
 14 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
 16 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
 17 erans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’
 18 Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Af-
 19 fairs of the House of Representatives a report on the Re-
 20 gional Readiness Centers of the Department of Veterans
 21 Affairs.

22 (b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted pursuant to
 23 subsection (a) shall include the following:

24 (1) The number of requests made by facilities
 25 of the Department to obtain supplies from a Re-

1 regional Readiness Center since the inception of the
2 Regional Readiness Center program, disaggregated
3 by Regional Readiness Center.

4 (2) Information on types and amounts of mate-
5 rial distributed since the inception of the Regional
6 Readiness Center program, disaggregated by Re-
7 gional Readiness Center.

8 (3) Current inventory, disaggregated by Re-
9 gional Readiness Center.

10 (4) An overview of the change in inventory in
11 each Regional Readiness Center during the two-year
12 period ending on the date of the enactment of this
13 Act.

14 (5) The percentage of inventory that is expired
15 or that will expire in the next month, disaggregated
16 by Regional Readiness Center.

17 (6) Operational costs since the inception of the
18 Regional Readiness Center program, disaggregated
19 by Regional Readiness Center.

20 (7) An analysis of the types and sizes of emer-
21 gencies, including natural disasters, public health
22 emergencies, or Fourth Mission activations of the
23 Department, with respect to which each Regional
24 Readiness Center would be able to provide sufficient

1 resources to respond to, based on the current capac-
2 ity of the Regional Readiness Center.

3 (8) Any plans of the Secretary to realign or
4 change the number of Regional Readiness Centers.

5 **SEC. 4. PLAN TO ALLOW FUEL SHARING AND INCREASED**
6 **COORDINATION BETWEEN THE FEDERAL**
7 **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY AND**
8 **THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

9 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-
10 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall,
11 after consulting with the Administrator of the Federal
12 Emergency Management Agency, submit to the Com-
13 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate, the Committee
14 on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives, the
15 Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs
16 of the Senate, and the Committee on Homeland Security
17 of the House of Representatives a report regarding—

18 (1) the current limitations preventing the Fed-
19 eral Emergency Management Agency from providing
20 fuel or other resources to the Department of Vet-
21 erans Affairs during emergencies;

22 (2) whether the Department requires action by
23 Congress to allow such resource provision to occur;

24 (3) whether the Secretary has been unable to
25 coordinate with the Administrator during prior

1 emergencies or Fourth Mission activations due to a
2 lack of authority for such coordination; and

3 (4) whether the Secretary requires action by
4 Congress to address any of the issues mentioned
5 under paragraph (3).

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