

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4229

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a comprehensive standard for timing between referrals and appointments for care from the Department of Veterans Affairs and to submit a report with respect to that standard, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 26, 2026

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

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a comprehensive standard for timing between referrals and appointments for care from the Department of Veterans Affairs and to submit a report with respect to that standard, 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 “Scheduling for Com-  
5       munity Health and Easy Data to Understand for Legisla-  
6       tors to Evaluate Services Act of 2026” or the “SCHED-  
7       ULES Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE STANDARD**  
2 **FOR TIMING BETWEEN REFERRAL AND AP-**  
3 **POINTMENT FOR CARE FROM DEPARTMENT**  
4 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARD.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans  
7 Affairs shall establish a comprehensive standard for  
8 timing between the date on which a referral for care  
9 for a veteran under the laws administered by the  
10 Secretary is entered into the care coordination sys-  
11 tem of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the  
12 date on which an appointment for care for the vet-  
13 eran occurs, whether at a facility of the Department  
14 or through care in the community.

15 (2) MODIFICATION.—The Secretary may modify  
16 the standard established under paragraph (1) as the  
17 appointment scheduling processes of the Department  
18 for care at a facility of the Department or through  
19 care in the community are updated.

20 (3) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 30 days be-  
21 fore establishing under paragraph (1) or modifying  
22 under paragraph (2) the comprehensive standard re-  
23 quired under this subsection, the Secretary shall  
24 publish such standard in the Federal Register and  
25 on a publicly available website of the Department.

26 (b) REPORT.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than  
2           quarterly, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a  
3           report on the number and percentage of referrals  
4           from the Department to facilities of the Department  
5           or providers in the community that meet the stand-  
6           ard under subsection (a).

7           (2) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted under  
8           paragraph (1) shall include the following:

9                   (A) The number and percentage of total  
10                  referrals from each facility of the Department  
11                  that meet, for the quarter covered by the re-  
12                  port—

13                           (i) the standard under subsection (a);

14                           (ii) with respect to referrals to a facil-  
15                           ity of the Department, the three-business-  
16                           day standard for scheduling an appoint-  
17                           ment at a facility of the Department; and

18                           (iii) with respect to referrals for care  
19                           in the community, the seven-calendar-day  
20                           standard for scheduling an appointment  
21                           for care in the community.

22                   (B) The number and percentage of refer-  
23                  rals from each facility of the Department that  
24                  meet each of the standards specified in sub-  
25                  paragraph (A), disaggregated by each of the

1 five, or more, most in-demand categories of care  
 2 provided at such facility (such as mental health,  
 3 cardiology, neurology, oncology, etc.).

4 (C) A list of all medical centers of the De-  
 5 partment ranked from best to worst in meeting  
 6 the standard under subsection (a), including a  
 7 disaggregated list by State.

8 (3) ANNUALLY INCLUDED INFORMATION.—Not  
 9 less frequently than annually, the Secretary shall in-  
 10 clude in the report required under paragraph (1)—

11 (A) aggregated data for the four-quarter  
 12 period preceding the date of the report; and

13 (B) a description of steps taken by the De-  
 14 partment to improve the timeliness of the provi-  
 15 sion of care by the Department and an estimate  
 16 of when the Department will be fully compliant  
 17 with the standard under subsection (a).

18 (4) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary  
 19 shall make each report required under paragraph (1)  
 20 publicly available on a website of the Veterans  
 21 Health Administration.

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