

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5343

To require congressional notification of the relief or early departure of certain general and flag officers.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 6, 2026

Ms. SLOTKIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To require congressional notification of the relief or early departure of certain general and flag officers.

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 “Military Leadership
5 Removal Transparency Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF RELIEF OR**
7 **EARLY DEPARTURE OF CERTAIN GENERAL**
8 **AND FLAG OFFICERS.**

9 Chapter 35 of title 10, United States Code, is amend-
10 ed by adding at the end the following new section:

1 **“§ 606. Notification of relief or early departure of cer-**
2 **tain general and flag officers**

3 “(a) COVERED OFFICER DEFINED.—In this section,
4 the term ‘covered officer’ means an officer serving in the
5 grade of general, admiral, lieutenant general, or vice admiral in—

7 “(1) a position of importance and responsibility
8 under section 601 of this title; or

9 “(2) any other position designated by the Sec-
10 retary of Defense for purposes of this section.

11 “(b) NOTICE REQUIRED.—Not later than 5 days
12 after the relief, removal, reassignment, resignation, retire-
13 ment, request for retirement, or other separation from po-
14 sition of a covered officer before the expected completion
15 of service in that position, the Secretary of Defense shall
16 submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Sen-
17 ate and the House of Representatives written notice of
18 such action.

19 “(c) EARLY DEPARTURE.—For purposes of this sec-
20 tion, a covered officer shall be considered to separate from
21 a position before the expected completion of service in that
22 position if the officer departs before—

23 “(1) the date of a publicly announced or offi-
24 cially scheduled change of command, retirement, re-
25 assignment, or end date for a tour of duty;

1 “(2) the date on which a successor is scheduled
2 to assume the position; or

3 “(3) if no such date has been established, 24
4 months after the officer assumed the position.

5 “(d) APPLICABILITY TO RESIGNATION OR RETIRE-
6 MENT.—The notice requirement under subsection (b) ap-
7 plies regardless of whether the resignation, retirement, or
8 request for retirement—

9 “(1) was initiated by the Department or by the
10 officer;

11 “(2) occurred in lieu of relief, removal, or reas-
12 signment; or

13 “(3) occurred without a formal written direction
14 to depart the position.

15 “(e) CONTENTS OF NOTICE.—A notice under sub-
16 section (b) shall include—

17 “(1) the name, grade, and position of the cov-
18 ered officer;

19 “(2) the effective date of the action;

20 “(3) the nature of the action, including whether
21 the action was a relief, removal, reassignment, res-
22 ignation, retirement, request for retirement, or other
23 departure;

24 “(4) whether the action was initiated by the
25 Department or by the officer;

1 “(5) a statement of the stated basis for the ac-
2 tion; and

3 “(6) whether any investigation, command in-
4 quiry, Inspector General review, or other fact-finding
5 has been initiated in connection with the action.

6 “(f) DETAILED REPORT.—Not later than 30 days
7 after submitting a notice under subsection (b), the Sec-
8 retary of Defense shall submit to the committees specified
9 in subsection (b) a detailed report on the action, which
10 may be submitted in whole or in part in classified form
11 consistent with subsection (g), including—

12 “(1) a statement of the basis for the action
13 signed by the Secretary of Defense, or by the Sec-
14 retary of the military department concerned if des-
15 ignated by the Secretary of Defense;

16 “(2) any findings of investigation, command in-
17 quiry, Inspector General review, or other fact-finding
18 completed as of the date of the report;

19 “(3) whether the covered officer was afforded
20 an opportunity to provide a written statement for in-
21 clusion in the report, and any such statement if pro-
22 vided;

23 “(4) a certification by the Secretary of Defense
24 whether the action was taken principally on the
25 basis of misconduct, performance, loss of confidence,

1 force management, reorganization, or other legiti-
2 mate military or civilian leadership considerations,
3 and not principally in retaliation for the good-faith
4 provision, in the course of official duties, of military,
5 operational, intelligence, readiness, legal, or risk as-
6 sessments to civilian or military superiors; and

7 “(5) whether the Joint Staff, the Secretary of
8 the military department concerned, the Chief of
9 Staff of the Army, the Chief of Naval Operations,
10 the Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Chief of
11 Staff of the Air Force, the Chief of Space Oper-
12 ations, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, or
13 the commander of the combatant command con-
14 cerned recommended the action.

15 “(g) CLASSIFIED ANNEX.—If the Secretary of De-
16 fense determines that any information required under sub-
17 section (e) or (f) cannot be provided in unclassified form
18 without harm to national security, the Secretary may sub-
19 mit such information in classified form, provided that—

20 “(1) the Secretary submits concurrently an un-
21 classified notice or report containing the maximum
22 amount of information that may be provided in un-
23 classified form; and

1 “(2) the classified submission is provided as a
2 classified annex to the notice or report otherwise re-
3 quired under this section.

4 “(h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
5 tion shall be construed to limit the constitutional authority
6 of the President as Commander in Chief or the authority
7 of the Secretary of Defense to assign, reassign, or relieve
8 officers. The exercise of such authority shall remain sub-
9 ject to the notification and reporting requirements of this
10 section.”.

○