

Calendar No. 279

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**S. 787****[Report No. 119–98]**

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a commission to review operations at the Veterans Health Administration and submit to Congress reports with respect to that review, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 27, 2025

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

DECEMBER 2, 2025

Reported by Mr. MORAN, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a commission to review operations at the Veterans Health Administration and submit to Congress reports with respect to that review, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “VetPAC Act of 2025”.

3 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS HEALTH ADMINIS-**
 4 **TRATION POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 73 of title
 6 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
 7 the following new section:

8 **“§ 7310B. Veterans Health Administration Policy Ad-**
 9 **visory Commission**

10 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Vet-
 11 erans Health Administration Policy Advisory Commission
 12 (in this section referred to as the ‘Commission’).

13 “(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

14 “(1) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be
 15 composed of 17 members appointed by the Comp-
 16 troller General of the United States, of which not
 17 fewer than 2 shall be veterans.

18 “(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An individual is eligi-
 20 ble for appointment to the Commission under
 21 paragraph (1) if the individual has significant
 22 expertise in operating or advising large medical
 23 systems, including expertise in quality of care,
 24 staffing issues, information technology, artificial
 25 intelligence in health care, medical supply
 26 chains, procurement of medical supplies, med-

1 ical facility construction or leasing; medical fa-
 2 cility architecture or engineering; medical re-
 3 search; and managed care plans and networks.

4 “(B) EXPERIENCE OF MEMBERS.—In ap-
 5 pointing members under paragraph (1), the
 6 Comptroller General shall select individuals
 7 from backgrounds that reflect the broad diver-
 8 sity of health care received by veterans, includ-
 9 ing nonprofit health systems, public and private
 10 health systems, care furnished by the Veterans
 11 Health Administration, and care furnished by
 12 the Department of Defense.

13 “(3) ETHICAL DISCLOSURE.—A member of the
 14 Commission shall be considered an employee of Con-
 15 gress whose compensation is disbursed by the Sec-
 16 retary of the Senate for purposes of applying sub-
 17 chapter I of chapter 131 of title 5, United States
 18 Code, except that a member of the Commission is
 19 required to file public financial disclosure reports
 20 without regard to their number of days of service or
 21 rate of pay.

22 “(c) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

23 “(1) TERMS.—A member of the Commission
 24 shall be appointed under subsection (b)(1) for a
 25 term of 5 years, except that the Comptroller General

1 shall designate staggered terms for the members
 2 first appointed.

3 ~~“(2) VACANCIES.—~~

4 ~~“(A) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on the~~
 5 ~~Commission shall be filled in the manner in~~
 6 ~~which the original appointment was made and~~
 7 ~~shall be subject to any conditions that applied~~
 8 ~~with respect to the original appointment.~~

9 ~~“(B) FILLING UNEXPIRED TERM.—An in-~~
 10 ~~dividual chosen to fill a vacancy shall be ap-~~
 11 ~~pointed for the unexpired term of the member~~
 12 ~~replaced.~~

13 ~~“(3) EXPIRATION OF TERMS.—The term of any~~
 14 ~~member shall not expire before the date on which~~
 15 ~~the member’s successor takes office.~~

16 ~~“(d) MEETINGS.—~~

17 ~~“(1) FREQUENCY.—The Commission shall meet~~
 18 ~~at the call of the Chairman, but not less frequently~~
 19 ~~than once per year.~~

20 ~~“(2) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of~~
 21 ~~the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a~~
 22 ~~lesser number of members may hold meetings.~~

23 ~~“(e) CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.—The Comp-~~
 24 ~~troller General shall designate one member of the Commis-~~
 25 ~~sion as Chairman and one member of the Commission as~~

1 Vice Chairman, at the time of appointment of such mem-
 2 ber and for the term of appointment of such member, ex-
 3 cept that in the case of vacancy of the Chairmanship or
 4 Vice Chairmanship, the Comptroller General may des-
 5 ignate another member for the remainder of that mem-
 6 ber's term.

7 “(f) DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.—

8 “(1) REVIEW.—The Commission shall—

9 “(A) review operations at the Veterans
 10 Health Administration; and

11 “(B) prepare reports for Congress based
 12 on such review, including recommendations to
 13 Congress.

14 “(2) TOPICS TO BE REVIEWED.—In conducting
 15 a review under paragraph (1)(A), the Commission
 16 shall include periodic reviews of the following, taking
 17 into consideration other independent assessments in
 18 selecting topics to limit duplicative efforts:

19 “(A) Information technology infrastructure
 20 at medical facilities of the Department, includ-
 21 ing with respect to electronic health record sys-
 22 tems.

23 “(B) Referrals to care at facilities of the
 24 Department and under the Veterans Commu-

1 nity Care Program under section 1703 of this
2 title, and factors impacting those referrals.

3 “(C) Access and wait times at medical fa-
4 cilities of the Department and under the Vet-
5 erans Community Care Program, including both
6 primary and specialty care, and factors impact-
7 ing those wait times.

8 “(D) The quality of health care furnished
9 by the Department and through the Veterans
10 Community Care Program.

11 “(E) Workforce issues, including workforce
12 performance, recruitment, and retention fac-
13 tors.

14 “(F) Patient satisfaction and customer
15 service at medical facilities of the Department
16 and through the Veterans Community Care
17 Program.

18 “(G) The training of health care providers
19 and the standards of care at facilities of the
20 Department and in the Veterans Community
21 Care Program.

22 “(H) The long-term budgetary outlook of
23 the Veterans Health Administration, as well as
24 key components driving budgetary changes over
25 time.

1 “(I) Procurement of supplies at medical fa-
2 cilities of the Department.

3 “(J) The research program of the Depart-
4 ment, including both internal and external re-
5 search.

6 “(K) Hospital construction, leasing, and
7 capital requirements.

8 “(L) The interaction of care under the
9 Medicare program under title XVIII of the So-
10 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.), the
11 Medicaid program under title XIX of such Act
12 (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), the TRICARE pro-
13 gram under chapter 55 of title 10, and commer-
14 cial health care plans with care furnished by the
15 Veterans Health Administration.

16 “(3) ISSUES REGARDING VETERAN HEALTH
17 CARE DELIVERY GENERALLY.—In carrying out the
18 requirements of this subsection, the Commission
19 shall review the effect of policies under this title on
20 the delivery of health care services to veterans and
21 assess the implications of changes in health care de-
22 livery for veterans in the United States.

23 “(4) TRANSMITTAL OF CERTAIN REPORTS.—If
24 the Secretary or the Inspector General of the De-
25 partment of Veterans Affairs submits to Congress

(or a committee of Congress) a report that is required by law and that relates to policies for health care furnished under the laws administered by the Secretary; the Secretary shall transmit a copy of that report to the Commission.

~~“(5) CONSULTATION AND ADDITIONAL REVIEWS AND STUDIES.—~~

~~“(A) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the requirements of this subsection, the Commission shall consult periodically with the chairmen and ranking members of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives regarding the agenda of the Commission and progress towards achieving that agenda.~~

~~“(B) ADDITIONAL REVIEWS AND REPORTS.—The Commission may conduct additional reviews, and may submit additional reports to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives, from time to time on such topics relating to the activities of the Commission as may be requested by the Chairman and members and as the Commission determines appropriate.~~

1 “(C) SPECIAL STUDIES.—The Commission
 2 may conduct special studies requested by the
 3 chairman or ranking member of the Committee
 4 on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate or the Com-
 5 mittee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of
 6 Representatives and as the Commission deter-
 7 mines appropriate.

8 “(6) BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS.—Before
 9 making any recommendations to Congress, the Com-
 10 mission shall examine the budget consequences of
 11 such recommendations, directly or through consulta-
 12 tion with appropriate expert entities.

13 “(7) REPORT.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—By not later than
 15 March 15 of each year, the Commission shall
 16 submit to Congress a report containing the re-
 17 sults and recommendations from the review
 18 conducted under paragraph (1).

19 “(B) INCLUSION OF RECOMMENDA-
 20 TIONS.—A recommendation may be included in
 21 a report under subparagraph (A) if a simple
 22 majority of the members of the Commission
 23 vote to include the recommendation in the re-
 24 port.

25 “(g) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may—

2 “(A) employ and fix the compensation of
3 an Executive Director (at a rate of pay not
4 greater than that provided for level III of the
5 Executive Schedule under section 5314 of title
6 5) and such other personnel as may be nec-
7 essary to carry out the duties of the Commis-
8 sion, without regard to the provisions of title 5
9 governing appointments in the competitive serv-
10 ice;

11 “(B) seek such assistance and support as
12 may be required in the performance of its du-
13 ties from appropriate departments and agencies
14 of the United States or departments or agencies
15 of a State;

16 “(C) enter into contracts or make other ar-
17 rangements, as may be necessary for the con-
18 duct of the work of the Commission (without
19 regard to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes
20 (41 U.S.C. 6101));

21 “(D) make advance, progress, and other
22 payments that relate to the work of the Com-
23 mission;

1 “(E) provide transportation and subsist-
 2 ence for individuals serving the Commission
 3 without compensation; and

4 “(F) prescribe such rules and regulations
 5 as the Commission determines necessary with
 6 respect to the internal organization and oper-
 7 ation of the Commission.

8 “(2) DATA COLLECTION.—In order to carry out
 9 its functions, the Commission shall—

10 “(A) utilize existing information, both pub-
 11 lished and unpublished, if possible, collected
 12 and assessed either by its own staff or under
 13 other arrangements made in accordance with
 14 this section;

15 “(B) carry out, or award grants or con-
 16 tracts for, original research and experimen-
 17 tation, if existing information is inadequate;
 18 and

19 “(C) adopt procedures allowing any inter-
 20 ested party to submit information for use by
 21 the Commission in making reports and rec-
 22 ommendations.

23 “(3) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGEN-
 24 CIES.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may
 2 secure directly from any relevant department or
 3 agency of the United States health care infor-
 4 mation the Chairman determines would be help-
 5 ful to enable the Commission to carry out this
 6 section.

7 “(B) TIMING.—Upon request of the Chair-
 8 man, the head of a department or agency of the
 9 United States shall furnish information re-
 10 quested under subparagraph (A) to the Com-
 11 mission on an agreed upon schedule or not later
 12 than 180 days after the date of the request.

13 “(h) COMPENSATION.—

14 “(1) MEMBERS.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—While conducting the
 16 business of the Commission (including travel
 17 time), a member of the Commission shall be en-
 18 titled to compensation at the per diem equiva-
 19 lent of the rate provided for level IV of the Ex-
 20 ecutive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5.

21 “(B) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—While con-
 22 ducting the business of the Commission away
 23 from home and the regular place of business of
 24 the member, a member may be allowed travel
 25 expenses, as authorized by the Chairman.

1 ~~“(2) PHYSICIAN COMPARABILITY ALLOWANCE~~
 2 ~~FOR PERSONNEL.—The Commission may provide a~~
 3 ~~physician comparability allowance to physicians serv-~~
 4 ~~ing as personnel of the Commission in the same~~
 5 ~~manner as physicians of the Federal Government~~
 6 ~~may be provided such an allowance by an agency~~
 7 ~~under section 5948 of title 5, and for such purpose,~~
 8 ~~subsection (i) of such section shall apply to the Com-~~
 9 ~~mission in the same manner as it applies to the Ten-~~
 10 ~~nessee Valley Authority.~~

11 ~~“(3) TREATMENT OF PERSONNEL.—For pur-~~
 12 ~~poses of pay (other than pay of members of the~~
 13 ~~Commission) and employment benefits, rights, and~~
 14 ~~privileges, all personnel of the Commission shall be~~
 15 ~~treated as if they were employees of the United~~
 16 ~~States Senate.~~

17 ~~“(i) DETAIL OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—An em-~~
 18 ~~ployee of the Federal Government may be detailed to the~~
 19 ~~Commission without reimbursement and without interrup-~~
 20 ~~tion or loss of civil service status or privileges.~~

21 ~~“(j) ACCESS OF CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT AGEN-~~
 22 ~~CIES TO INFORMATION.—The Commission shall provide to~~
 23 ~~the Comptroller General, the Congressional Research~~
 24 ~~Service, and the Congressional Budget Office unrestricted~~
 25 ~~access to all deliberations, records, and nonproprietary~~

1 data of the Commission not later than 30 days after such
2 access is requested.

3 ~~“(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—~~

4 ~~“(1) REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATIONS.—The~~
5 ~~Commission shall submit requests for appropriations~~
6 ~~in the same manner as the Comptroller General sub-~~
7 ~~mits requests for appropriations, but amounts ap-~~
8 ~~propriated for the Commission shall be separate~~
9 ~~from amounts appropriated for the Comptroller Gen-~~
10 ~~eral.~~

11 ~~“(2) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to~~
12 ~~be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to~~
13 ~~carry out this section.”.~~

14 ~~(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections~~
15 ~~at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting~~
16 ~~after the item relating to section 7310A the following new~~
17 ~~item:~~

~~“7310B. Veterans Health Administration Policy Advisory Commission.”.~~

18 ~~(c) INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 280 days~~
19 ~~after the date on which amounts are first appropriated~~
20 ~~to the Veterans Health Administration Policy Advisory~~
21 ~~Commission established under section 7310B of title 38,~~
22 ~~United States Code, as added by subsection (a), the~~
23 ~~Comptroller General of the United States shall make ini-~~
24 ~~tial appointments of members to the Commission under~~
25 ~~subsection (b)(1) of such section.~~

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 *This Act may be cited as the “VetPAC Act of 2025”.*

3 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS HEALTH ADMINIS-**
 4 **TRATION POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION.**

5 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 38, United States*
 6 *Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new*
 7 *section:*

8 **“§ 120. Veterans Health Administration Policy Advi-**
 9 **sory Commission**

10 *“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Vet-*
 11 *erans Health Administration Policy Advisory Commission*
 12 *(in this section referred to as the ‘Commission’).*

13 *“(b) MEMBERSHIP.—*

14 *“(1) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be*
 15 *composed of 17 members appointed by the Comp-*
 16 *troller General of the United States, of which not*
 17 *fewer than 2 shall be veterans.*

18 *“(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—*

19 *“(A) IN GENERAL.—An individual is eligi-*
 20 *ble for appointment to the Commission under*
 21 *paragraph (1) if the individual has significant*
 22 *expertise in operating or advising large medical*
 23 *systems, including expertise in quality of care,*
 24 *staffing issues, information technology, artificial*
 25 *intelligence in health care, medical supply*
 26 *chains, procurement of medical supplies, medical*

1 *facility construction or leasing, medical facility*
 2 *architecture or engineering, medical research,*
 3 *and managed care plans and networks.*

4 “(B) *EXPERIENCE OF MEMBERS.*—*In ap-*
 5 *pointing members under paragraph (1), the*
 6 *Comptroller General shall select individuals from*
 7 *backgrounds that reflect the broad diversity of*
 8 *health care received by veterans, including non-*
 9 *profit health systems, public and private health*
 10 *systems, care furnished by the Veterans Health*
 11 *Administration, and care furnished by the De-*
 12 *partment of Defense.*

13 “(3) *ETHICAL DISCLOSURE.*—*A member of the*
 14 *Commission shall be considered an employee of Con-*
 15 *gress whose compensation is disbursed by the Sec-*
 16 *retary of the Senate for purposes of applying sub-*
 17 *chapter I of chapter 131 of title 5, United States*
 18 *Code, except that a member of the Commission is re-*
 19 *quired to file public financial disclosure reports with-*
 20 *out regard to their number of days of service or rate*
 21 *of pay.*

22 “(c) *PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.*—

23 “(1) *TERMS.*—*A member of the Commission*
 24 *shall be appointed under subsection (b)(1) for a term*
 25 *of 5 years, except that the Comptroller General shall*

1 *designate staggered terms for the members first ap-*
 2 *pointed.*

3 “(2) *VACANCIES.*—

4 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—A vacancy on the Com-
 5 *mission shall be filled in the manner in which*
 6 *the original appointment was made and shall be*
 7 *subject to any conditions that applied with re-*
 8 *spect to the original appointment.*

9 “(B) *FILLING UNEXPIRED TERM.*—An indi-
 10 *vidual chosen to fill a vacancy shall be ap-*
 11 *pointed for the unexpired term of the member re-*
 12 *placed.*

13 “(3) *EXPIRATION OF TERMS.*—The term of any
 14 *member shall not expire before the date on which the*
 15 *member’s successor takes office.*

16 “(d) *MEETINGS.*—

17 “(1) *FREQUENCY.*—The Commission shall meet
 18 *at the call of the Chairman, but not less frequently*
 19 *than once per year.*

20 “(2) *QUORUM.*—A majority of the members of
 21 *the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a less-*
 22 *er number of members may hold meetings.*

23 “(e) *CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.*—The Comp-
 24 *troller General shall designate one member of the Commis-*
 25 *sion as Chairman and one member of the Commission as*

1 *Vice Chairman, at the time of appointment of such member*
 2 *and for the term of appointment of such member, except*
 3 *that in the case of vacancy of the Chairmanship or Vice*
 4 *Chairmanship, the Comptroller General may designate an-*
 5 *other member for the remainder of that member's term.*

6 “(f) *DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.*—

7 “(1) *REVIEW.*—*The Commission shall—*

8 “(A) *review operations at the Veterans*
 9 *Health Administration; and*

10 “(B) *prepare reports for Congress based on*
 11 *such review, including recommendations to Con-*
 12 *gress.*

13 “(2) *TOPICS TO BE REVIEWED.*—*In conducting a*
 14 *review under paragraph (1)(A), the Commission shall*
 15 *include periodic reviews of the following, taking into*
 16 *consideration other independent assessments in select-*
 17 *ing topics to limit duplicative efforts:*

18 “(A) *Information technology infrastructure*
 19 *at medical facilities of the Department, includ-*
 20 *ing with respect to electronic health record sys-*
 21 *tems.*

22 “(B) *Referrals to care at facilities of the De-*
 23 *partment and under the Veterans Community*
 24 *Care Program under section 1703 of this title,*
 25 *and factors impacting those referrals.*

1 “(C) Access and wait times at medical fa-
2 cilities of the Department and under the Vet-
3 erans Community Care Program, including both
4 primary and specialty care, and factors impact-
5 ing those wait times.

6 “(D) The quality of health care furnished by
7 the Department and through the Veterans Com-
8 munity Care Program.

9 “(E) Workforce issues, including workforce
10 performance, recruitment, and retention factors.

11 “(F) Patient satisfaction and customer serv-
12 ice at medical facilities of the Department and
13 through the Veterans Community Care Program.

14 “(G) The training of health care providers
15 and the standards of care at facilities of the De-
16 partment and in the Veterans Community Care
17 Program.

18 “(H) The long-term budgetary outlook of the
19 Veterans Health Administration, as well as key
20 components driving budgetary changes over time.

21 “(I) Procurement of supplies at medical fa-
22 cilities of the Department.

23 “(J) The research program of the Depart-
24 ment, including both internal and external re-
25 search.

1 “(K) *Hospital construction, leasing, and*
 2 *capital requirements.*

3 “(L) *The interaction of care under the*
 4 *Medicare program under title XVIII of the So-*
 5 *cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.), the*
 6 *Medicaid program under title XIX of such Act*
 7 *(42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), the TRICARE program*
 8 *under chapter 55 of title 10, and commercial*
 9 *health care plans with care furnished by the Vet-*
 10 *erans Health Administration.*

11 “(3) *USE OF EXISTING DATA.—In carrying out*
 12 *the requirements of this subsection, the Commission,*
 13 *to the extent practicable, shall use existing data that*
 14 *has been compiled by the Department, compiled for*
 15 *the Department, or purchased by the Department, in-*
 16 *cluding—*

17 “(A) *data described in subsection (c)(1) of*
 18 *section 1704A of this title; and*

19 “(B) *the results of the independent assess-*
 20 *ments conducted under such section.*

21 “(4) *ISSUES REGARDING VETERAN HEALTH CARE*
 22 *DELIVERY GENERALLY.—In carrying out the require-*
 23 *ments of this subsection, the Commission shall review*
 24 *the effect of policies under this title on the delivery of*
 25 *health care services to veterans and assess the impli-*

1 *cations of changes in health care delivery for veterans*
 2 *under the laws administered by the Secretary.*

3 “(5) *TRANSMITTAL OF CERTAIN REPORTS.—If*
 4 *the Secretary or the Inspector General of the Depart-*
 5 *ment of Veterans Affairs submits to Congress (or a*
 6 *committee of Congress) a report that is required by*
 7 *law and that relates to policies for health care fur-*
 8 *nished under the laws administered by the Secretary,*
 9 *the Secretary shall transmit a copy of that report to*
 10 *the Commission.*

11 “(6) *CONSULTATION AND ADDITIONAL REVIEWS*
 12 *AND STUDIES.—*

13 “(A) *CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the*
 14 *requirements of this subsection, the Commission*
 15 *shall consult periodically with the chairmen and*
 16 *ranking members of the Committee on Veterans’*
 17 *Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Vet-*
 18 *erans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives re-*
 19 *garding the agenda of the Commission and*
 20 *progress towards achieving that agenda.*

21 “(B) *ADDITIONAL REVIEWS AND RE-*
 22 *PORTS.—The Commission may conduct addi-*
 23 *tional reviews, and may submit additional re-*
 24 *ports to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of*
 25 *the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Af-*

1 *fairs of the House of Representatives, from time*
 2 *to time on such topics relating to the activities*
 3 *of the Commission as may be requested by the*
 4 *Chairman and members and as the Commission*
 5 *determines appropriate.*

6 “(C) *SPECIAL STUDIES.*—*The Commission*
 7 *may conduct special studies requested by the*
 8 *chairman or ranking member of the Committee*
 9 *on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate or the Com-*
 10 *mittee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Rep-*
 11 *resentatives and as the Commission determines*
 12 *appropriate.*

13 “(7) *COORDINATION.*—*In carrying out reviews,*
 14 *preparing reports, and conducting studies under this*
 15 *section, the Commission shall, to the extent prac-*
 16 *ticable, coordinate with the Inspector General of the*
 17 *Department to ensure the work of the Commission*
 18 *does not interfere with investigations or remediations*
 19 *underway by the Inspector General.*

20 “(8) *BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS.*—*Before*
 21 *making any recommendations to Congress, the Com-*
 22 *mission shall examine the budget consequences of such*
 23 *recommendations, directly or through consultation*
 24 *with appropriate expert entities.*

25 “(9) *REPORT.*—

1 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—By not later than
 2 *March 15 of each year, the Commission shall*
 3 *submit to Congress a report containing the re-*
 4 *sults and recommendations from the review con-*
 5 *ducted under paragraph (1).*

6 “(B) *INCLUSION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.*—A
 7 *recommendation may be included in a report*
 8 *under subparagraph (A) if a simple majority of*
 9 *the members of the Commission vote to include*
 10 *the recommendation in the report.*

11 “(g) *POWERS OF COMMISSION.*—

12 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Commission may—

13 “(A) *employ and fix the compensation of an*
 14 *Executive Director (at a rate of pay not greater*
 15 *than that provided for level III of the Executive*
 16 *Schedule under section 5314 of title 5) and such*
 17 *other personnel as may be necessary to carry out*
 18 *the duties of the Commission, without regard to*
 19 *the provisions of title 5 governing appointments*
 20 *in the competitive service;*

21 “(B) *seek such assistance and support as*
 22 *may be required in the performance of its duties*
 23 *from appropriate departments and agencies of*
 24 *the United States or departments or agencies of*
 25 *a State;*

1 “(C) enter into contracts or make other ar-
2 rangements, as may be necessary for the conduct
3 of the work of the Commission (without regard
4 to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes (41
5 U.S.C. 6101));

6 “(D) make advance, progress, and other
7 payments that relate to the work of the Commis-
8 sion;

9 “(E) provide transportation and subsistence
10 for individuals serving the Commission without
11 compensation; and

12 “(F) prescribe such rules and regulations as
13 the Commission determines necessary with re-
14 spect to the internal organization and operation
15 of the Commission.

16 “(2) DATA COLLECTION.—In order to carry out
17 its functions, the Commission shall—

18 “(A) utilize existing information, both pub-
19 lished and unpublished, if possible, collected and
20 assessed either by its own staff or under other ar-
21 rangements made in accordance with this sec-
22 tion;

23 “(B) carry out, or award grants or con-
24 tracts for, original research and experimentation,
25 if existing information is inadequate; and

1 “(C) adopt procedures allowing any inter-
 2 ested party to submit information for use by the
 3 Commission in making reports and rec-
 4 ommendations.

5 “(3) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may
 7 secure directly from any relevant department or
 8 agency of the United States health care informa-
 9 tion the Chairman determines would be helpful
 10 to enable the Commission to carry out this sec-
 11 tion.

12 “(B) TIMING.—Upon request of the Chair-
 13 man, the head of a department or agency of the
 14 United States shall furnish information re-
 15 quested under subparagraph (A) to the Commis-
 16 sion on an agreed upon schedule or not later
 17 than 180 days after the date of the request.

18 “(h) COMPENSATION.—

19 “(1) MEMBERS.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—While conducting the
 21 business of the Commission (including travel
 22 time), a member of the Commission shall be enti-
 23 tled to compensation at the per diem equivalent
 24 of the rate provided for level IV of the Executive
 25 Schedule under section 5315 of title 5.

1 “(B) *TRAVEL EXPENSES.*—While con-
 2 ducting the business of the Commission away
 3 from home and the regular place of business of
 4 the member, a member may be allowed travel ex-
 5 penses, as authorized by the Chairman.

6 “(2) *PHYSICIAN COMPARABILITY ALLOWANCE*
 7 *FOR PERSONNEL.*—The Commission may provide a
 8 physician comparability allowance to physicians
 9 serving as personnel of the Commission in the same
 10 manner as physicians of the Federal Government
 11 may be provided such an allowance by an agency
 12 under section 5948 of title 5, and for such purpose,
 13 subsection (i) of such section shall apply to the Com-
 14 mission in the same manner as it applies to the Ten-
 15 nessee Valley Authority.

16 “(3) *TREATMENT OF PERSONNEL.*—For purposes
 17 of pay (other than pay of members of the Commis-
 18 sion) and employment benefits, rights, and privileges,
 19 all personnel of the Commission shall be treated as if
 20 they were employees of the United States Senate.

21 “(i) *DETAIL OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.*—An employee
 22 of the Federal Government may be detailed to the Commis-
 23 sion without reimbursement and without interruption or
 24 loss of civil service status or privileges.

1 “(j) *ACCESS OF CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT AGENCIES*
 2 *TO INFORMATION.*—*The Commission shall provide to the*
 3 *Comptroller General, the Congressional Research Service,*
 4 *and the Congressional Budget Office unrestricted access to*
 5 *all deliberations, records, and nonproprietary data of the*
 6 *Commission not later than 30 days after such access is re-*
 7 *quested.*

8 “(k) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—

9 “(1) *REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATIONS.*—*The*
 10 *Commission shall submit requests for appropriations*
 11 *in the same manner as the Comptroller General sub-*
 12 *mits requests for appropriations, but amounts appro-*
 13 *priated for the Commission shall be separate from*
 14 *amounts appropriated for the Comptroller General.*

15 “(2) *AUTHORIZATION.*—*There are authorized to*
 16 *be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to*
 17 *carry out this section.”.*

18 “(b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—*The table of sections at*
 19 *the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after*
 20 *the item relating to section 119 the following new item:*

 “120. *Veterans Health Administration Policy Advisory Commission.*”.

21 “(c) *INITIAL APPOINTMENT.*—*Not later than 280 days*
 22 *after the date on which amounts are first appropriated to*
 23 *the Veterans Health Administration Policy Advisory Com-*
 24 *mission established under section 120 of title 38, United*
 25 *States Code, as added by subsection (a), the Comptroller*

1 *General of the United States shall make initial appoint-*
2 *ments of members to the Commission under subsection*
3 *(b)(1) of such section.*

Calendar No. 279

119TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

S. 787

[Report No. 119-98]

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a commission to review operations at the Veterans Health Administration and submit to Congress reports with respect to that review, and for other purposes.

DECEMBER 2, 2025

Reported with an amendment