

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5172

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to review the list of veterans designated as former prisoners of war, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio (for himself, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. TIBERI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to review the list of veterans designated as former prisoners of war, 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 “POW Accountability
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REVIEW OF LISTS OF FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR.**

7 (a) REVIEW OF LISTS OF PRISONERS OF WAR.—The
8 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall review the VA POW
9 list and the DOD POW list to identify any discrepancies
10 in such lists.

1 (b) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW OF PROCESS.—

2 The Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Af-
3 fairs shall review the process by which the Secretary deter-
4 mines that a veteran is a former prisoner of war, including
5 whether the Secretary is following guidelines established
6 by the Secretary to determine that a veteran is a former
7 prisoner of war.

8 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
9 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans
10 Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the VA POW
11 list, including the following:

12 (1) Any discrepancies, by period of conflict, in
13 the number of prisoners of war included on the VA
14 POW list and the DOD POW list.

15 (2) With respect to veterans included on the VA
16 POW list who are not included on the DOD POW
17 list, information regarding how such determinations
18 were made, including what types of evidence were
19 used, in a manner that does not personally identify
20 such veterans.

21 (3) The results of the review of the Inspector
22 General under subsection (b), without change.

23 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 (1) The term “DOD POW list” means the list
25 maintained by the Secretary of Defense, acting

1 through the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Per-
2 sonnel Office, of members of the Armed Forces who
3 were prisoners of war.

4 (2) The term “VA POW list” means the list
5 maintained by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of
6 veterans whom the Secretary determines are former
7 prisoners of war.

○