

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1668

To require a Comptroller General of the United States report on the impact of certain mental and physical trauma on the discharge of members of the Armed Forces for misconduct.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 7, 2013

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

A BILL

To require a Comptroller General of the United States report on the impact of certain mental and physical trauma on the discharge of members of the Armed Forces for misconduct.

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. COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED**
2 **STATES REPORT ON IMPACT OF CERTAIN**
3 **MENTAL AND PHYSICAL TRAUMA ON DIS-**
4 **CHARGES FROM MILITARY SERVICE FOR MIS-**
5 **CONDUCT.**

6 (a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—The Comptroller General
7 of the United States shall submit to Congress a report
8 on the impact of mental and physical trauma relating to
9 Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic
10 Brain Injury (TBI), behavioral health matters not related
11 to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and other neurological
12 combat traumas (in this section referred to as “covered
13 traumas”) on the discharge of members of the Armed
14 Forces from the Armed Forces for misconduct.

15 (b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by subsection
16 (a) shall include the following:

17 (1) An assessment of the extent to which the
18 Armed Forces have in place processes for the consid-
19 eration of the impact of mental and physical trauma
20 relating to covered traumas on members of the
21 Armed Forces who are being considered for dis-
22 charge from the Armed Forces for misconduct, in-
23 cluding the compliance of the Armed Forces with
24 such processes and mechanisms in the Department
25 of Defense for ensuring the compliance of the Armed
26 Forces with such processes.

1 (2) An assessment of the extent to which the
2 Armed Forces provide members of the Armed
3 Forces, including commanding officers, junior offi-
4 cers, and noncommissioned officers, training on the
5 symptoms of covered traumas and the identification
6 of the presence of such conditions in members of the
7 Armed Forces.

8 (3) An assessment of the extent to which mem-
9 bers of the Armed Forces who receive treatment for
10 a covered trauma before discharge from the Armed
11 Forces are later discharged from the Armed Forces
12 for misconduct.

13 (4) An identification of the number of members
14 of the Armed Forces discharged as described in
15 paragraph (3) who are ineligible for benefits from
16 the Department of Veterans Affairs based on char-
17 acterization of discharge.

18 (5) An assessment of the extent to which mem-
19 bers of the Armed Forces who accept a discharge
20 from the Armed Forces for misconduct in lieu of
21 trial by court-martial are counseled on the potential
22 for ineligibility for benefits from the Department of
23 Veterans Affairs as a result of such discharge before
24 acceptance of such discharge.

○