

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2464

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the accountability of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 20, 2015

Mr. BENISHEK (for himself and Ms. SINEMA) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the accountability of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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 “Demanding Account-
5 ability for Veterans Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. ACCOUNTABILITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AF-**
2 **FAIRS TO INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DE-**
3 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

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

7 **“§ 712. Accountability of Secretary to Inspector Gen-**
8 **eral**

9 “(a) SUBMISSION OF REPORTS.—(1) At the same
10 time as the Inspector General of the Department submits
11 to the Secretary a report, the Inspector General shall sub-
12 mit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate
13 and House of Representatives a copy of such report.

14 “(2) In carrying out paragraph (1), the Inspector
15 General shall include—

16 “(A) with respect to each report submitted, an
17 explanation of any changes to the report rec-
18 ommended by the Secretary during the period in
19 which the Inspector General was preparing the re-
20 port; and

21 “(B) with respect to each covered report, a list
22 of the names of each responsible manager.

23 “(3) The Inspector General may not make public the
24 names of responsible managers submitted under para-
25 graph (2)(B).

1 “(b) PERFORMANCE OF RESPONSIBLE MANAGERS.—

2 (1) The Secretary shall—

3 “(A) promptly notify each responsible manager
4 of a covered issue by not later than seven days after
5 the date on which the Inspector General submits a
6 covered report to the Secretary;

7 “(B) direct such manager to resolve such issue;
8 and

9 “(C) provide such manager with appropriate
10 counseling and a mitigation plan with respect to re-
11 solving such issue.

12 “(2) The Secretary shall ensure that any performance
13 review of a responsible manager includes an evaluation of
14 whether the manager took appropriate actions during the
15 period covered by the review to respond to a covered issue.

16 “(3) The Secretary may not pay to a responsible
17 manager any bonus or award under chapter 45 or 53 of
18 title 5 or any other bonus or award authorized under such
19 title or this title if a covered issue is unresolved.

20 “(c) ROLE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—Any authority
21 of the Inspector General provided under this section is in
22 addition to any responsibility or authority provided to the
23 Inspector General in the Inspector General Act of 1978
24 (5 U.S.C. App.).

25 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 “(1) The term ‘covered issue’ means, with re-
 2 spect to a responsible manager, an issue described in
 3 a covered report for which the manager is or was re-
 4 sponsible.

5 “(2) The term ‘covered report’ means a report
 6 by the Inspector General of the Department of Vet-
 7 erans Affairs that recommends actions to the Sec-
 8 retary of Veterans Affairs (or other official or em-
 9 ployee of the Department) to address an issue in the
 10 Department with respect to public health or safety.

11 “(3) The term ‘responsible manager’ means an
 12 individual who—

13 “(A) is an employee of the Department;

14 “(B) is or was responsible for an issue in-
 15 cluded in a covered report; and

16 “(C) in being so responsible, is or was em-
 17 ployed in a management position, regardless of
 18 whether the employee is in the competitive civil
 19 service, Senior Executive Service, or other type
 20 of civil service.”.

21 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 22 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
 23 after the item relating to section 711 the following new
 24 item:

“712. Accountability of Secretary to Inspector General.”.