

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3122

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into a contract with a non-government entity for the conduct of biannual audits of Department of Veterans Affairs health care functions, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 2015

Mr. HURT of Virginia (for himself, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. ROE of Tennessee) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into a contract with a non-government entity for the conduct of biannual audits of Department of Veterans Affairs health care functions, 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 “The Veterans Adminis-
5 tration Legislative and Objective Review Act of 2015” or
6 “VALOR Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. BIENNIAL INDEPENDENT AUDITS OF HEALTH CARE**
2 **FUNCTIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
3 **AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 17 of title
5 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
6 the following new section:

7 **“§ 1709B. Biennial audits of Department health care**
8 **functions**

9 “(a) BIENNIAL AUDITS REQUIRED.—The Secretary
10 shall enter into a contract with an appropriate non-govern-
11 ment entity for the conduct of a biennial audit of all func-
12 tions of the Department related to the furnishing of health
13 care by the Department. Such entity shall provide a report
14 on the results of each biennial audit conducted under this
15 section, which shall be made publicly available on an Inter-
16 net website of the Department. Each such report shall in-
17 clude an assessment of each of the following:

18 “(1) The current and projected demographics
19 and unique health care needs of the patient popu-
20 lation of the Department, as well as the unique
21 health care needs of veterans living in rural areas.

22 “(2) The current and projected health care ca-
23 pabilities and resources of the Department.

24 “(3) The use of authorities granted to the Sec-
25 retary to furnish hospital care and medical services
26 at non-Department facilities.

1 “(4) The appropriate system-wide access stand-
2 ard applicable to health care furnished by and
3 through the Department.

4 “(5) The workflow efficiency and processes at
5 each medical facility of the Department for sched-
6 uling appointments for veterans.

7 “(6) The organization, workflow processes, and
8 tools used by the Department to support clinical
9 staffing, access to care, effective length-of-stay man-
10 agement and care transitions, positive patient expe-
11 rience, accurate documentation, and subsequent cod-
12 ing of inpatient services.

13 “(7) The staffing level and productivity of each
14 medical facility of the Department.

15 “(8) The progress of the Department with re-
16 spect to the use of information technology for fur-
17 nishing and managing health care.

18 “(9) The business processes of the Veterans
19 Health Administration.

20 “(10) The purchasing, distribution, and use of
21 pharmaceuticals, medical and surgical supplies, med-
22 ical devices, and health care related services by the
23 Department.

24 “(11) The progress of the Department with re-
25 spect to construction and maintenance projects at

1 medical facilities of the Department and the use of
2 medical facility leases.

3 “(12) The effectiveness of the leadership of the
4 Department in executing their management respon-
5 sibilities and implementing reforms of previous au-
6 dits.

7 “(13) The progress of the Department with re-
8 spect to implementing recommended reforms result-
9 ing from previous evaluations.

10 “(14) Such other matters as the non-govern-
11 ment entity determines relevant.

12 “(15) Recommendations on how the Depart-
13 ment can make changes to be more effective in deliv-
14 ering quality and timely care to veterans.

15 “(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 120
16 days after receiving a report under subsection (a), the Sec-
17 retary shall submit to Congress a report on the results
18 of the audit covered by the report. Each such report shall
19 include the findings of the audit and the plans of the Sec-
20 retary to address such findings and make improvements
21 to the functions of the Department based on such find-
22 ings.”.

23 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
24 at the beginning of such section is amended by inserting

1 after the item relating to section 1709A the following new
2 item:

“1709B. Biannual audits of Department health care functions”.

3 (c) DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—The Sec-
4 retary of Veterans Affairs shall enter into a contract for
5 the conduct of the audit required under section 1709B of
6 title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a),
7 by not later than January 1, 2017.

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