

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3308

To require an audit and review of the caregiver programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 19, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To require an audit and review of the caregiver programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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 “Veterans Caregiver Im-  
5       provement and Expansion Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. AUDIT AND REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT OF VET-**  
7       **ERANS AFFAIRS CAREGIVER PROGRAMS.**

8       (a) GAO AUDIT.—The Comptroller General of the  
9       United States shall conduct an audit of the caregiver pro-

1 grams of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such audit  
2 shall include—

3 (1) a review of the budget formulations, execu-  
4 tion, allocation, and use of funds for each program;  
5 and

6 (2) the recommendations of the Comptroller  
7 General for streamlining and consolidating the two  
8 programs.

9 (b) SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REVIEW.—  
10 Not later than three months after the completion of the  
11 audit required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Vet-  
12 erans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the  
13 audit that includes the identification of—

14 (1) any changes recommended by the Comp-  
15 troller General that the Secretary is able to imple-  
16 ment without legislative changes;

17 (2) any recommendation of the Comptroller  
18 General for legislative changes;

19 (3) any recommendation of the Comptroller  
20 General that the Secretary determines is problem-  
21 atic, overly expensive, or impractical; and

22 (4) in the case of any recommendation identi-  
23 fied under paragraph (3), a recommendation for an  
24 alternative approach to addressing the problem iden-

1       tified by the Comptroller General in making such  
2       recommendation.

3       (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 24 months  
4 after the submittal of the report under subsection (b), the  
5 Secretary shall—

6           (1) implement the changes described in para-  
7 graph (1) of such subsection;

8           (2) establish national policies based on best  
9 practices for administering the caregiver programs  
10 designed to streamline and consolidate the caregiver  
11 programs; and

12           (3) establish a database designed to monitor all  
13 Department programs that provide assistance to  
14 caregivers and all caregivers receiving assistance  
15 under a caregiver program.

16       (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17           (1) The term “caregiver” has the meaning  
18 given such term in section 1720G(d)(1) of title 38,  
19 United States Code.

20           (2) The term “caregiver programs” means the  
21 following programs of the Department of Veterans  
22 Affairs:

23                   (A) The program for assistance and sup-  
24 port services for caregivers under section  
25 1720G of title 38, United States Code.

1           (B) The program to provide counseling,  
2           training, and mental health services for imme-  
3           diate family members and caregivers under sec-  
4           tion 1782 of such title.

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