

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6589

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and submit to Congress a plan to address the material weakness 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Department of Vet-
3 erans Affairs Chief Financial Officer Authority and Col-
4 laboration Act of 2020”.

5 **SEC. 2. PLANS FOR ADDRESSING MATERIAL WEAKNESSES**
6 **AND PROVIDING SUFFICIENT AUTHORITY TO**
7 **CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF DEPARTMENT**
8 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

9 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
10 ment of this Act, and annually thereafter for each of the
11 three subsequent years, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
12 acting through the Chief Financial Officer of the Depart-
13 ment of Veterans Affairs, shall submit to the appropriate
14 congressional committees—

15 (1) an action plan, including steps, related
16 timelines, costs, progress, status of implementation,
17 and any updates for fully addressing the material
18 weaknesses of the Department discussed in the Man-
19 agement’s Discussion and Analysis section of the fi-
20 nancial statements of the Department submitted to
21 Congress under section 3515 of title 31, United
22 States Code for the year preceding the year during
23 which the report is submitted; and

24 (2) a plan outlining the steps the Secretary
25 plans to take to address the recommendations of
26 auditors related to entity-level internal controls and

1 to provide sufficient authority to the Chief Financial
2 Officer of the Department to carry out the require-
3 ments of section 902 of title 31, United States Code.

4 **SEC. 3. CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER ATTESTATION.**

5 Concurrent with the submittal to Congress of the
6 President's budget request under section 1105 of title 31,
7 United States Code, for fiscal year 2022 and each of the
8 next three subsequent fiscal years, the Chief Financial Of-
9 ficer of the Department of Veterans affairs shall submit
10 to the appropriate congressional committees each of the
11 following:

12 (1) A certification of the responsibility of the
13 Chief Financial Officer for internal financial controls
14 of the Department.

15 (2) An attestation that the Chief Financial Of-
16 ficer has collaborated sufficiently with the subordi-
17 nate chief financial officers of the Department to be
18 confident in the financial projections included the
19 budget request and supporting materials.

20 **SEC. 4. CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER RESPONSIBILITY FOR**
21 **SUBORDINATE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the respon-
23 sibilities of the Chief Financial Officer of the Department
24 of Veterans Affairs for the recruitment, selection, and
25 training of personnel to carry out agency financial man-

1 agement functions pursuant to section 902(a)(5)(C) of
2 title 31, United States Code, the Chief Financial Officer
3 or the designee of the Chief Financial Officer within the
4 Office of Management of the Department shall—

5 (1) participate in the interview and selection
6 panels of all subordinate chief financial officers; and

7 (2) give input into the performance plans and
8 performance evaluations of all subordinate chief fi-
9 nancial officers.

10 (b) **TERMINATION.**—The requirements under sub-
11 section (a) shall terminate on the date that is five years
12 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

13 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

14 In this Act:

15 (1) The term “appropriate congressional com-
16 mittees” means the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs
17 of the Senate and the House of Representatives and
18 the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and
19 the House of Representatives.

20 (2) The term “subordinate chief financial offi-
21 cer”—

22 (A) includes—

23 (i) the chief financial officer of the
24 Veterans Health Administration, the chief
25 financial officer of the Office of Commu-

1 nity Care within the Veterans Health Ad-
2 ministration, and all chief financial officers
3 of Veterans Integrated Service Networks
4 within the Veterans Health Administra-
5 tion;

6 (ii) the chief financial officer of the
7 Veterans Benefits Administration and all
8 chief financial officers of organizational
9 subdivisions representing business lines
10 within the Veterans Benefits Administra-
11 tion;

12 (iii) the chief financial officer of the
13 National Cemetery Administration; and

14 (iv) the chief financial officer of the
15 Office of Information and Technology; and

16 (B) does not include the Inspector General.

Passed the House of Representatives September 22,
2020.

Attest:

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,

Clerk.