

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 787

AN ACT

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a commission to review operations at the Veterans Health Administration and submit to Congress reports with respect to that review, 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 “VetPAC Act of 2025”.

3 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS HEALTH ADMINIS-**
 4 **TRATION POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 38, United
 6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 7 lowing new section:

8 **“§ 120. Veterans Health Administration Policy Advi-**
 9 **sory Commission**

10 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Vet-
 11 erans Health Administration Policy Advisory Commission
 12 (in this section referred to as the ‘Commission’).

13 “(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

14 “(1) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be
 15 composed of 17 members appointed by the Comp-
 16 troller General of the United States, of which not
 17 fewer than 2 shall be veterans.

18 “(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An individual is eligi-
 20 ble for appointment to the Commission under
 21 paragraph (1) if the individual has significant
 22 expertise in operating or advising large medical
 23 systems, including expertise in quality of care,
 24 staffing issues, information technology, artificial
 25 intelligence in health care, medical supply
 26 chains, procurement of medical supplies, med-

1 ical facility construction or leasing, medical fa-
 2 cility architecture or engineering, medical re-
 3 search, and managed care plans and networks.

4 “(B) EXPERIENCE OF MEMBERS.—In ap-
 5 pointing members under paragraph (1), the
 6 Comptroller General shall select individuals
 7 from backgrounds that reflect the broad diver-
 8 sity of health care received by veterans, includ-
 9 ing nonprofit health systems, public and private
 10 health systems, care furnished by the Veterans
 11 Health Administration, and care furnished by
 12 the Department of Defense.

13 “(3) ETHICAL DISCLOSURE.—A member of the
 14 Commission shall be considered an employee of Con-
 15 gress whose compensation is disbursed by the Sec-
 16 retary of the Senate for purposes of applying sub-
 17 chapter I of chapter 131 of title 5, United States
 18 Code, except that a member of the Commission is
 19 required to file public financial disclosure reports
 20 without regard to their number of days of service or
 21 rate of pay.

22 “(c) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

23 “(1) TERMS.—A member of the Commission
 24 shall be appointed under subsection (b)(1) for a
 25 term of 5 years, except that the Comptroller General

1 shall designate staggered terms for the members
2 first appointed.

3 “(2) VACANCIES.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on the
5 Commission shall be filled in the manner in
6 which the original appointment was made and
7 shall be subject to any conditions that applied
8 with respect to the original appointment.

9 “(B) FILLING UNEXPIRED TERM.—An in-
10 dividual chosen to fill a vacancy shall be ap-
11 pointed for the unexpired term of the member
12 replaced.

13 “(3) EXPIRATION OF TERMS.—The term of any
14 member shall not expire before the date on which
15 the member’s successor takes office.

16 “(d) MEETINGS.—

17 “(1) FREQUENCY.—The Commission shall meet
18 at the call of the Chairman, but not less frequently
19 than once per year.

20 “(2) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of
21 the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a
22 lesser number of members may hold meetings.

23 “(e) CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.—The Comp-
24 troller General shall designate one member of the Commis-
25 sion as Chairman and one member of the Commission as

1 Vice Chairman, at the time of appointment of such mem-
 2 ber and for the term of appointment of such member, ex-
 3 cept that in the case of vacancy of the Chairmanship or
 4 Vice Chairmanship, the Comptroller General may des-
 5 ignate another member for the remainder of that mem-
 6 ber's term.

7 “(f) DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.—

8 “(1) REVIEW.—The Commission shall—

9 “(A) review operations at the Veterans
 10 Health Administration; and

11 “(B) prepare reports for Congress based
 12 on such review, including recommendations to
 13 Congress.

14 “(2) TOPICS TO BE REVIEWED.—In conducting
 15 a review under paragraph (1)(A), the Commission
 16 shall include periodic reviews of the following, taking
 17 into consideration other independent assessments in
 18 selecting topics to limit duplicative efforts:

19 “(A) Information technology infrastructure
 20 at medical facilities of the Department, includ-
 21 ing with respect to electronic health record sys-
 22 tems.

23 “(B) Referrals to care at facilities of the
 24 Department and under the Veterans Commu-

1 nity Care Program under section 1703 of this
2 title, and factors impacting those referrals.

3 “(C) Access and wait times at medical fa-
4 cilities of the Department and under the Vet-
5 erans Community Care Program, including both
6 primary and specialty care, and factors impact-
7 ing those wait times.

8 “(D) The quality of health care furnished
9 by the Department and through the Veterans
10 Community Care Program.

11 “(E) Workforce issues, including workforce
12 performance, recruitment, and retention fac-
13 tors.

14 “(F) Patient satisfaction and customer
15 service at medical facilities of the Department
16 and through the Veterans Community Care
17 Program.

18 “(G) The training of health care providers
19 and the standards of care at facilities of the
20 Department and in the Veterans Community
21 Care Program.

22 “(H) The long-term budgetary outlook of
23 the Veterans Health Administration, as well as
24 key components driving budgetary changes over
25 time.

1 “(I) Procurement of supplies at medical fa-
 2 cilities of the Department.

3 “(J) The research program of the Depart-
 4 ment, including both internal and external re-
 5 search.

6 “(K) Hospital construction, leasing, and
 7 capital requirements.

8 “(L) The interaction of care under the
 9 Medicare program under title XVIII of the So-
 10 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.), the
 11 Medicaid program under title XIX of such Act
 12 (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), the TRICARE pro-
 13 gram under chapter 55 of title 10, and commer-
 14 cial health care plans with care furnished by the
 15 Veterans Health Administration.

16 “(3) USE OF EXISTING DATA.—In carrying out
 17 the requirements of this subsection, the Commission,
 18 to the extent practicable, shall use existing data that
 19 has been compiled by the Department, compiled for
 20 the Department, or purchased by the Department,
 21 including—

22 “(A) data described in subsection (c)(1) of
 23 section 1704A of this title; and

24 “(B) the results of the independent assess-
 25 ments conducted under such section.

1 “(4) ISSUES REGARDING VETERAN HEALTH
 2 CARE DELIVERY GENERALLY.—In carrying out the
 3 requirements of this subsection, the Commission
 4 shall review the effect of policies under this title on
 5 the delivery of health care services to veterans and
 6 assess the implications of changes in health care de-
 7 livery for veterans under the laws administered by
 8 the Secretary.

9 “(5) TRANSMITTAL OF CERTAIN REPORTS.—If
 10 the Secretary or the Inspector General of the De-
 11 partment of Veterans Affairs submits to Congress
 12 (or a committee of Congress) a report that is re-
 13 quired by law and that relates to policies for health
 14 care furnished under the laws administered by the
 15 Secretary, the Secretary shall transmit a copy of
 16 that report to the Commission.

17 “(6) CONSULTATION AND ADDITIONAL REVIEWS
 18 AND STUDIES.—

19 “(A) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the
 20 requirements of this subsection, the Commis-
 21 sion shall consult periodically with the chairmen
 22 and ranking members of the Committee on Vet-
 23 erans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee
 24 on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Represent-

1 atives regarding the agenda of the Commission
2 and progress towards achieving that agenda.

3 “(B) ADDITIONAL REVIEWS AND RE-
4 PORTS.—The Commission may conduct addi-
5 tional reviews, and may submit additional re-
6 ports to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of
7 the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Af-
8 fairs of the House of Representatives, from
9 time to time on such topics relating to the ac-
10 tivities of the Commission as may be requested
11 by the Chairman and members and as the Com-
12 mission determines appropriate.

13 “(C) SPECIAL STUDIES.—The Commission
14 may conduct special studies requested by the
15 chairman or ranking member of the Committee
16 on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate or the Com-
17 mittee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of
18 Representatives and as the Commission deter-
19 mines appropriate.

20 “(7) COORDINATION.—In carrying out reviews,
21 preparing reports, and conducting studies under this
22 section, the Commission shall, to the extent prac-
23 ticable, coordinate with the Inspector General of the
24 Department to ensure the work of the Commission

1 does not interfere with investigations or remedi-
 2 ations underway by the Inspector General.

3 “(8) BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS.—Before
 4 making any recommendations to Congress, the Com-
 5 mission shall examine the budget consequences of
 6 such recommendations, directly or through consulta-
 7 tion with appropriate expert entities.

8 “(9) REPORT.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—By not later than
 10 March 15 of each year, the Commission shall
 11 submit to Congress a report containing the re-
 12 sults and recommendations from the review
 13 conducted under paragraph (1).

14 “(B) INCLUSION OF RECOMMENDA-
 15 TIONS.—A recommendation may be included in
 16 a report under subparagraph (A) if a simple
 17 majority of the members of the Commission
 18 vote to include the recommendation in the re-
 19 port.

20 “(g) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may—

22 “(A) employ and fix the compensation of
 23 an Executive Director (at a rate of pay not
 24 greater than that provided for level III of the
 25 Executive Schedule under section 5314 of title

1 5) and such other personnel as may be nec-
2 essary to carry out the duties of the Commis-
3 sion, without regard to the provisions of title 5
4 governing appointments in the competitive serv-
5 ice;

6 “(B) seek such assistance and support as
7 may be required in the performance of its du-
8 ties from appropriate departments and agencies
9 of the United States or departments or agencies
10 of a State;

11 “(C) enter into contracts or make other ar-
12 rangements, as may be necessary for the con-
13 duct of the work of the Commission (without
14 regard to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes
15 (41 U.S.C. 6101));

16 “(D) make advance, progress, and other
17 payments that relate to the work of the Com-
18 mission;

19 “(E) provide transportation and subsist-
20 ence for individuals serving the Commission
21 without compensation; and

22 “(F) prescribe such rules and regulations
23 as the Commission determines necessary with
24 respect to the internal organization and oper-
25 ation of the Commission.

1 “(2) DATA COLLECTION.—In order to carry out
2 its functions, the Commission shall—

3 “(A) utilize existing information, both pub-
4 lished and unpublished, if possible, collected
5 and assessed either by its own staff or under
6 other arrangements made in accordance with
7 this section;

8 “(B) carry out, or award grants or con-
9 tracts for, original research and experimen-
10 tation, if existing information is inadequate;
11 and

12 “(C) adopt procedures allowing any inter-
13 ested party to submit information for use by
14 the Commission in making reports and rec-
15 ommendations.

16 “(3) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGEN-
17 CIES.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may
19 secure directly from any relevant department or
20 agency of the United States health care infor-
21 mation the Chairman determines would be help-
22 ful to enable the Commission to carry out this
23 section.

24 “(B) TIMING.—Upon request of the Chair-
25 man, the head of a department or agency of the

1 United States shall furnish information re-
 2 quested under subparagraph (A) to the Com-
 3 mission on an agreed upon schedule or not later
 4 than 180 days after the date of the request.

5 “(h) COMPENSATION.—

6 “(1) MEMBERS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—While conducting the
 8 business of the Commission (including travel
 9 time), a member of the Commission shall be en-
 10 titled to compensation at the per diem equiva-
 11 lent of the rate provided for level IV of the Ex-
 12 ecutive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5.

13 “(B) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—While con-
 14 ducting the business of the Commission away
 15 from home and the regular place of business of
 16 the member, a member may be allowed travel
 17 expenses, as authorized by the Chairman.

18 “(2) PHYSICIAN COMPARABILITY ALLOWANCE
 19 FOR PERSONNEL.—The Commission may provide a
 20 physician comparability allowance to physicians serv-
 21 ing as personnel of the Commission in the same
 22 manner as physicians of the Federal Government
 23 may be provided such an allowance by an agency
 24 under section 5948 of title 5, and for such purpose,
 25 subsection (i) of such section shall apply to the Com-

1 mission in the same manner as it applies to the Ten-
2 nessee Valley Authority.

3 “(3) TREATMENT OF PERSONNEL.—For pur-
4 poses of pay (other than pay of members of the
5 Commission) and employment benefits, rights, and
6 privileges, all personnel of the Commission shall be
7 treated as if they were employees of the United
8 States Senate.

9 “(i) DETAIL OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—An em-
10 ployee of the Federal Government may be detailed to the
11 Commission without reimbursement and without interrup-
12 tion or loss of civil service status or privileges.

13 “(j) ACCESS OF CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT AGEN-
14 CIES TO INFORMATION.—The Commission shall provide to
15 the Comptroller General, the Congressional Research
16 Service, and the Congressional Budget Office unrestricted
17 access to all deliberations, records, and nonproprietary
18 data of the Commission not later than 30 days after such
19 access is requested.

20 “(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—The
21 Commission shall submit requests for appropriations in
22 the same manner as the Comptroller General submits re-
23 quests for appropriations, but amounts appropriated for
24 the Commission shall be separate from amounts appro-
25 priated for the Comptroller General.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 2 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
 3 after the item relating to section 119 the following new
 4 item:

“120. Veterans Health Administration Policy Advisory Commission.”.

5 (c) INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 280 days
 6 after the date on which amounts are first appropriated
 7 to the Veterans Health Administration Policy Advisory
 8 Commission established under section 120 of title 38,
 9 United States Code, as added by subsection (a), the
 10 Comptroller General of the United States shall make ini-
 11 tial appointments of members to the Commission under
 12 subsection (b)(1) of such section.

Passed the Senate December 18, 2025.

Attest:

Secretary.

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