

The clerk will report the bill by title.
The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 324) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of adult day health care services for veterans.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Hatch substitute amendment be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1581) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “State Veterans Home Adult Day Health Care Improvement Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. PROVISION OF CERTAIN ADULT DAY HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1745 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d)(1) The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with each State home for payment by the Secretary for medical supervision model adult day health care provided to a veteran described in subsection (a)(1) on whose behalf the State home is not in receipt of payment for nursing home care from the Secretary.

“(2)(A) Payment under each agreement between the Secretary and a State home under paragraph (1) for each veteran who receives medical supervision model adult day health care under such agreement shall be made at a rate established through regulations prescribed by the Secretary to adequately reimburse the State home for the care provided by the State home, including necessary transportation expenses.

“(B) The Secretary shall consult with the State homes in prescribing regulations under subparagraph (A).

“(C) The rate established through regulations under subparagraph (A) shall not take effect until the date that is 30 days after the date on which those regulations are published in the Federal Register.

“(3) Payment by the Secretary under paragraph (1) to a State home for medical supervision model adult day health care provided to a veteran described in that paragraph constitutes payment in full to the State home for such care furnished to that veteran.

“(4) In this subsection, the term ‘medical supervision model adult day health care’ means adult day health care that includes the coordination of physician services, dental services, nursing services, the administration of drugs, and such other requirements as determined appropriate by the Secretary.”; and

(2) in the section heading, by inserting “, adult day health care,” after “home care”.

(b) INITIAL RATE.—Before the Secretary of Veterans Affairs establishes a payment rate under subsection (d)(2)(A) of section 1745 of such title, as added by subsection (a), the Secretary shall pay to a State home that has entered into an agreement with the Secretary for medical supervision model adult day health care (as defined in subsection

(d)(4) of such section) an amount equal to 65 percent of the rate the Secretary would pay under subsection (a)(2) of such section to the State home for nursing home care provided to the veteran.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 1745 and inserting the following new item:

“1745. Nursing home care, adult day health care, and medications for veterans with service-connected disabilities.”.

The bill (S. 324), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DHS ACQUISITION REVIEW BOARD ACT OF 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 240, S. 886.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 886) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish an Acquisition Review Board in the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Daines substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1582) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

The bill (S. 886), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

REDUCING DHS ACQUISITION COST GROWTH ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 234, S. 906.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 906) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for congressional notification regarding major acquisition program breaches, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment, as follows:

(The part of the bill intended to be inserted is shown in italics.)

S. 906

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Reducing DHS Acquisition Cost Growth Act”.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION FOR MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 836. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM BREACH.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ACQUISITION.—The term ‘acquisition’ has the meaning given the term in section 131 of title 41, United States Code.

“(2) ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term ‘acquisition program’ means the process by which the Department acquires, with any appropriated amounts, by contract for purchase or lease, property or services (including construction) that support the missions and goals of the Department.

“(3) ACQUISITION PROGRAM BASELINE.—The term ‘acquisition program baseline’, with respect to an acquisition program, means a summary of the cost, schedule, and performance parameters, expressed in standard, measurable, quantitative terms, which shall be met in order to accomplish the goals of the program.

“(4) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ has the meaning given the term in section 226(a).

“(5) BEST PRACTICES.—The term ‘best practices’, with respect to acquisition, means a knowledge-based approach to capability development that includes—

“(A) identifying and validating needs;

“(B) assessing alternatives to select the most appropriate solution;

“(C) clearly establishing well-defined requirements;

“(D) developing realistic cost assessments and schedules;

“(E) securing stable funding that matches resources to requirements;

“(F) demonstrating technology, design, and manufacturing maturity;

“(G) using milestones and exit criteria or specific accomplishments that demonstrate progress;

“(H) adopting and executing standardized processes with known success across programs;

“(I) establishing an adequate workforce that is qualified and sufficient to perform necessary functions; and

“(J) integrating the capabilities described in subparagraphs (A) through (I) into the mission and business operations of the Department.

“(6) BREACH.—The term ‘breach’, with respect to a major acquisition program, means a failure to meet any cost, schedule, or performance threshold specified in the most recently approved acquisition program baseline.

“(7) COMPONENT ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE.—The term ‘Component Acquisition Executive’ means the senior acquisition official within a component who is designated in writing by the Under Secretary for Management, in consultation with the component head, with authority and responsibility for leading a process and staff to provide acquisition and program management oversight, policy, and guidance to ensure that statutory, regulatory, and higher level policy requirements are fulfilled, including compliance with Federal law, the Federal Acquisition Regulation, and Department acquisition management directives established by the Under Secretary for Management.

“(8) MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term ‘major acquisition program’ means an acquisition program of the Department that

is estimated by the Secretary to require an eventual total expenditure of at least \$300,000,000 (based on fiscal year 2017 constant dollars) over the life cycle cost of the program.

“(b) REQUIREMENTS WITHIN DEPARTMENT IN EVENT OF BREACH.—

“(1) NOTIFICATIONS.—

“(A) NOTIFICATION OF BREACH.—If a breach occurs in a major acquisition program, the program manager for the program shall notify the Component Acquisition Executive for the program, the head of the component concerned, the Executive Director of the Program Accountability and Risk Management division, the Under Secretary for Management, and the Deputy Secretary not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which the breach is identified.

“(B) NOTIFICATION TO SECRETARY.—If a breach occurs in a major acquisition program and the breach results in a cost overrun greater than 15 percent, a schedule delay greater than 180 days, or a failure to meet any of the performance thresholds from the cost, schedule, or performance parameters specified in the most recently approved acquisition program baseline for the program, the Component Acquisition Executive for the program shall notify the Secretary and the Inspector General of the Department not later than 5 business days after the date on which the Component Acquisition Executive for the program, the head of the component concerned, the Executive Director of the Program Accountability and Risk Management Division, the Under Secretary for Management, and the Deputy Secretary are notified of the breach under subparagraph (A).

“(2) REMEDIATION PLAN AND ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If a breach occurs in a major acquisition program, the program manager for the program shall submit in writing to the head of the component concerned, the Executive Director of the Program Accountability and Risk Management division, and the Under Secretary for Management, at a date established by the Under Secretary for Management, a remediation plan and root cause analysis relating to the breach and program.

“(B) REMEDIATION PLAN.—The remediation plan required under subparagraph (A) shall—

“(i) explain the circumstances of the breach at issue;

“(ii) provide prior cost estimating information;

“(iii) include a root cause analysis that determines the underlying cause or causes of shortcomings in cost, schedule, or performance of the major acquisition program with respect to which the breach has occurred, including the role, if any, of—

“(I) unrealistic performance expectations;

“(II) unrealistic baseline estimates for cost or schedule or changes in program requirements;

“(III) immature technologies or excessive manufacturing or integration risk;

“(IV) unanticipated design, engineering, manufacturing, or technology integration issues arising during program performance;

“(V) changes to the scope of the program;

“(VI) inadequate program funding or changes in planned out-year funding from one 5-year funding plan to the next 5-year funding plan as outlined in the Future Years Homeland Security Program required under section 874;

“(VII) legislative, legal, or regulatory changes; or

“(VIII) inadequate program management personnel, including lack of sufficient number of staff, training, credentials, certifications, or use of best practices;

“(iv) propose corrective action to address cost growth, schedule delays, or performance issues;

“(v) explain the rationale for why a proposed corrective action is recommended; and

“(vi) in coordination with the Component Acquisition Executive for the program, discuss all options considered, including—

“(I) the estimated impact on cost, schedule, or performance of the program if no changes are made to current requirements;

“(II) the estimated cost of the program if requirements are modified; and

“(III) the extent to which funding from other programs will need to be reduced to cover the cost growth of the program.

“(3) REVIEW OF CORRECTIVE ACTIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary for Management—

“(i) shall review each remediation plan required under paragraph (2); and

“(ii) not later than 30 days after submission of a remediation plan under paragraph (2), may approve the plan or provide an alternative proposed corrective action.

“(B) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Under Secretary for Management completes a review of a remediation plan under subparagraph (A), the Under Secretary for Management shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress—

“(i) a copy of the remediation plan; and

“(ii) a statement describing the corrective action or actions that have occurred pursuant to paragraph (2)(B)(iv) for the major acquisition program at issue, with a justification for each action.

“(C) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION IF BREACH OCCURS.—

“(1) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—If a notification to the Secretary is made under subsection (b)(1)(B) relating to a breach in a major acquisition program, the Under Secretary for Management shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress of the breach in the next quarterly Comprehensive Acquisition Status Report, as required in the matter under the heading ‘OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT’ in title I of division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-113; 129 Stat. 2493), after receipt by the Under Secretary for Management of notification under that subsection.

“(2) SIGNIFICANT VARIANCES IN COSTS OR SCHEDULE.—If a likely cost overrun is greater than 20 percent or a likely delay is greater than 12 months from the costs and schedule specified in the acquisition program baseline for a major acquisition program, the Under Secretary for Management shall include in the notification required in paragraph (1) a written certification, with supporting explanation, that—

“(A) the program is essential to the accomplishment of the mission of the Department;

“(B) there are no alternatives to the capability or asset provided by the program that will provide equal or greater capability in a more cost-effective and timely manner;

“(C) the new acquisition schedule and estimates for total acquisition cost are reasonable; and

“(D) the management structure for the program is adequate to manage and control cost, schedule, and performance.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-296; 116 Stat. 2135) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 835 the following:

“Sec. 836. Congressional notification and other requirements for major acquisition program breach.”

SEC. 3. REPORT ON BID PROTESTS.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security.

(b) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department shall conduct a study and submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report on the prevalence and impact of bid protests on the acquisition process of the Department, in particular bid protests filed with the Government Accountability Office and the United States Court of Federal Claims.

(c) CONTENTS.—The report required under subsection (b) shall include—

(1) with respect to contracts with the Department—

(A) trends in the number of bid protests filed with Federal agencies, the Government Accountability Office, and Federal courts, the effectiveness of each forum for contracts and task or delivery orders, and the rate of those bid protests compared to contract obligations and the number of contracts;

(B) an analysis of bid protests filed by incumbent contractors, including the rate at which those contractors are awarded bridge contracts or contract extensions over the period during which the bid protest remains unresolved;

(C) a comparison of the number of bid protests and the outcome of bid protests for—

(i) awards of contracts compared to awards of task or delivery orders;

(ii) contracts or orders primarily for products compared to contracts or orders primarily for services;

(iii) protests filed pre-award to challenge the solicitation compared to those filed post-award;

(iv) contracts or awards with single protestors compared to multiple protestors; and

(v) contracts with single awards compared to multiple award contracts;

(D) a description of trends in the number of bid protests filed as a percentage of contracts and as a percentage of task or delivery orders by the value of the contract or order with respect to—

(i) contracts valued at more than \$300,000,000;

(ii) contracts valued at not less than \$50,000,000 and not more than \$300,000,000;

(iii) contracts valued at not less than \$10,000,000 and not more than \$50,000,000; and

(iv) contracts valued at less than \$10,000,000;

(E) an assessment of the cost and schedule impact of successful and unsuccessful bid protests, as well as delineation of litigation costs, filed on major acquisitions with more than \$100,000,000 in annual expenditures or \$300,000,000 in lifecycle costs;

(F) an analysis of how often bid protestors are awarded the contract that was the subject of the bid protest;

(G) a summary of the results of bid protests in which the contracting Federal agencies took unilateral corrective action, including the average time for remedial action to be completed;

(H) the time it takes Federal agencies to implement corrective actions after a ruling or decision with respect to a bid protest, and the percentage of those corrective actions that are subsequently protested, including the outcome of any subsequent bid protest;

(I) an analysis of those contracts with respect to which a company files a bid protest and later files a subsequent bid protest;

(J) an analysis of the time spent at each phase of the procurement process attempting to prevent a bid protest, addressing a bid protest, or taking corrective action in response to a bid protest, including the efficacy of any actions attempted to prevent the occurrence of a protest; and

(K) with respect to a company bidding on contracts or task or delivery orders, the extent to and manner in which the bid protest process affects or may affect the decision to offer a bid or

proposal on single award or multiple award contracts when the company is the incumbent or non-incumbent contractor; and

(2) any recommendations by the Inspector General of the Department relating to the study conducted under this section.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be withdrawn, the McCaskill substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 1583) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The bill (S. 906), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

VETERANS ACCESS ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 1153 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1153) to prohibit or suspend certain health care providers from providing non-Department of Veterans Affairs health care services to veterans, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1153) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1153

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veterans Acquiring Community Care Expect Safe Services Act of 2017" or the "Veterans ACCESS Act".

SEC. 2. PREVENTION OF CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS FROM PROVIDING NON-DEPARTMENT HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall deny or revoke the eligibility of a health care provider to provide non-Department health care services to veterans if

the Secretary determines that the health care provider—

(1) was removed from employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs due to conduct that violated a policy of the Department relating to the delivery of safe and appropriate health care;

(2) violated the requirements of a medical license of the health care provider;

(3) had a Department credential revoked and the grounds for such revocation impacts the ability of the health care provider to deliver safe and appropriate health care; or

(4) violated a law for which a term of imprisonment of more than one year may be imposed.

(b) PERMISSIVE ACTION.—On and after the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary may deny, revoke, or suspend the eligibility of a health care provider to provide non-Department health care services if the Secretary has reasonable belief that such action is necessary to immediately protect the health, safety, or welfare of veterans and—

(1) the health care provider is under investigation by the medical licensing board of a State in which the health care provider is licensed or practices;

(2) the health care provider has entered into a settlement agreement for a disciplinary charge relating to the practice of medicine by the health care provider; or

(3) the Secretary otherwise determines that such action is appropriate under the circumstances.

(c) SUSPENSION.—The Secretary shall suspend the eligibility of a health care provider to provide non-Department health care services to veterans if the health care provider is suspended from serving as a health care provider of the Department.

(d) INITIAL REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT EMPLOYMENT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, with respect to each health care provider providing non-Department health care services, the Secretary shall review the status of each such health care provider as an employee of the Department and the history of employment of each such health care provider with the Department to determine whether the health care provider is described in any of subsections (a) through (c).

(e) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation by the Secretary of this section, including the following:

(1) The aggregate number of health care providers denied or suspended under this section from participation in providing non-Department health care services.

(2) An evaluation of any impact on access to health care for patients or staffing shortages in programs of the Department providing non-Department health care services.

(3) An explanation of the coordination of the Department with the medical licensing boards of States in implementing this section, the amount of involvement of such boards in such implementation, and efforts by the Department to address any concerns raised by such boards with respect to such implementation.

(4) Such recommendations as the Comptroller General considers appropriate regarding harmonizing eligibility criteria between health care providers of the Department and health care providers eligible to provide non-Department health care services.

(f) NON-DEPARTMENT HEALTH CARE SERVICES DEFINED.—In this section, the term "non-Department health care services" means services—

(1) provided under subchapter I of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, at non-De-

partment facilities (as defined in section 1701 of such title);

(2) provided under section 101 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note);

(3) purchased through the Medical Community Care account of the Department; or

(4) purchased with amounts deposited in the Veterans Choice Fund under section 802 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014.

ENHANCING VETERAN CARE ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 1266 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1266) to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with nonprofit organizations to investigate medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1266) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1266

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Enhancing Veteran Care Act".

SEC. 2. INVESTIGATION OF MEDICAL CENTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may contract with a nonprofit organization that accredits health care organizations and programs in the United States to investigate a medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs to assess and report deficiencies of the facilities at such medical center.

(b) AUTHORITY OF DIRECTORS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to coordination under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall delegate the authority under subsection (a) to contract for an investigation at a medical center of the Department to the Director of the Veterans Integrated Service Network in which the medical center is located or the director of such medical center.

(2) COORDINATION.—Before entering into a contract under paragraph (1), the Director of a Veterans Integrated Service Network or the director of a medical center, as the case may be, shall notify the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Comptroller General of the United States for purposes of coordinating any investigation conducted pursuant to such contract with any other investigations that may be ongoing.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed—