

budget request for the program by more than 5 percent.

“(c) **SUPPORT AND RESOURCES.**—The Chief Financial Officer of the Department shall provide to the Secretary such support and resources as may be necessary for the Secretary to ensure the effective establishment and functioning of the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation.”.

(b) **REPORT ON MONITORING OF OPERATING AND SUPPORT COSTS FOR MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.**—

(1) **REPORT TO SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than once each year thereafter until December 31, 2028, the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs a report on systems and methods for tracking and assessing operating and support costs of major acquisition programs (as defined in section 8181 of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 2), including recommendations for establishing cost baselines.

(2) **TRANSMITTAL TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 30 days after receiving a report pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives the report received by the Secretary.

SEC. 7. IMPROVEMENTS TO HIRING OF ENTRY-LEVEL ACQUISITION POSITIONS IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) **PRIORITY USE OF INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS FOR HIRING INTO ENTRY-LEVEL POSITIONS IN ACQUISITIONS.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prioritize the use of acquisition internship programs to hire employees to entry-level positions relating to acquisition in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) **ANNUAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN ACQUISITION INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than September 30 of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that the annual number of participants in acquisition internship programs of the Department is—

(A) not fewer than twice the number of participants in such programs during fiscal year 2025; and

(B) not more than 4 times the number of participants in such programs during such fiscal year.

(2) **TERMINATION.**—The requirements of paragraph (1) shall terminate on the date on which the Secretary certifies to the appropriate committees of Congress that the projected number of graduates of acquisition internship programs is sufficient to satisfy the human capital needs of the Department with respect to acquisition, taking into account the rate of attrition and projected retirements of personnel.

(3) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 8. INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS OF ACQUISITION PROCESS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) **SYSTEMS ENGINEERING ANALYSIS.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall seek to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the acquisition research center established under section 4142(a) of title 10, United States Code, to conduct a systems engineering analysis of the acquisition process of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date in which the Secretary enters into the memorandum of understanding required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to Com-

mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the acquisition research center with respect to the analysis conducted under such subsection.

SEC. 9. REQUIREMENTS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subchapter VI of chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 2 and amended by sections 3 and 6, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 8185. REQUIREMENTS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

“(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCESS.**—(1) The Secretary shall establish a standardized requirements development process for major acquisition programs.

“(2) The process established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) define and validate mission-driven requirements for major acquisition programs exceeding \$200,000,000 annually or \$1,000,000,000 in lifecycle costs, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary for Acquisition;

“(B) incorporate data-driven needs assessments, stakeholder input from relevant administrations, staff offices, and other elements of the Department and veterans service organizations, and alignment with statutory mandates, such as section 8121 of this title; and

“(C) ensure iterative validation of requirements through independent verification and validation, as described in section 8185 of this title, to confirm cost, schedule, and performance baselines.

“(b) **LIMITATION ON PERSONNEL.**—The Secretary shall implement the process established pursuant to subsection (a) using staff within the Office of Acquisition and other relevant offices of the Department, as established under section 8182 of this title, without creating new positions, unless a subsequent cost-benefit analysis, validated by the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, justifies additional resources.”.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report detailing the process established pursuant to section 8185 of such title, as added by subsection (a), and a plan for implementation of such process, including timelines for integration with major acquisition program baselines.

SEC. 10. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Subchapter VI of chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 8171, by striking paragraphs (5) and (6); and

(2) by striking section 8172.

SEC. 11. CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.

The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to section 8172; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“SUBCHAPTER VII—ACQUISITION ORGANIZATION, COST ASSESSMENT, AND PROGRAM EVALUATION
 “8181. Definition of major acquisition program.
 “8182. Acquisition reorganization.
 “8183. Major acquisition program managers.
 “8184. Cost assessment and program evaluation.
 “8185. Requirements development process.”.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be 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 committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1591), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read a third time, and passed.

ENSURING VETSUCCESS ON CAMPUS ACT OF 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 273, S. 610.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 610) to expand the VetSuccess on Campus program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill 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 bill (S. 610) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 610

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 “Ensuring VetSuccess On Campus Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF VETSUCCESS ON CAMPUS PROGRAM TO AT LEAST ONE LOCATION IN EACH STATE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that the VetSuccess on Campus program of the Department of Veterans Affairs is located in every State.

(b) **COUNSELORS.**—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that at least one counselor of the VetSuccess on Campus program is located in each State, notwithstanding the number of individuals in a State or at an educational institution who may qualify to participate in the program.

(c) **PREFERENCE.**—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall give preference to educational institutions that have the largest populations of students who are pursuing programs of education at such institutions with educational assistance provided under laws administered by the Secretary.

(d) **STATE DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “State” has the meaning given such term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions: S. Res. 544 and S. Res. 545.

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

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

UNANIMOUS CONSENT
AGREEMENT—S. 1071

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the filing deadline with respect to first-degree

amendments to S. 1071 be at 4 p.m. on Monday, December 15.

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

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER
15, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, December 15; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak

therein for up to 10 minutes each; finally, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motion with respect to the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 1071 ripen at 5:30.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
DECEMBER 15, 2025, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:37 p.m., adjourned until Monday, December 15, 2025, at 3 p.m.