

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2336

AN ACT

To improve the management of information technology projects and investments 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 Veterans Affairs Information Technology Reform Act of 4 2019”.

5 SEC. 2. MANAGEMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**6 FAIRS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
7 PROJECTS.**

8 (a) UPDATE OF REVIEW PROCESS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DASHBOARD CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER RATINGS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall update the review process for information technology projects of the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that active risks are factored into the Information Technology Dashboard Chief Information Officer ratings.

18 (2) REVIEW BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.—Not later than one year after the date on which the Secretary completes updating the review process under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete a review such process.

24 (b) ANNUAL REPORT ON PROJECT BUDGET DISCREPANCIES.—

1 SEC. 3. PLAN FOR EXPENDITURES RELATING TO DEPART-
2 MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS INFORMATION
3 TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS AND INVESTMENTS.

4 (a) PLAN REQUIRED.—

10 (2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under
11 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

12 (A) Identification of each information tech-
13 nology project and investment planned by the
14 Secretary for which the Secretary estimates the
15 Department will expend or obligate
16 \$25,000,000 or more for development and
17 sustainment over a three-year lifecycle.

18 (B) For each such project and investment,
19 a description of—

20 (i) the functional and performance ca-
21 pabilities to be delivered and the mission
22 benefits to be realized;

23 (ii) the estimated lifecycle cost, includ-
24 ing estimates for development as well as
25 maintenance and operations; and

(iii) key milestones to be met

1 (C) Demonstration that each project and
2 investment is—

3 (i) consistent with the Information
4 Technology Modernization Plan of the De-
5 partment, or successor plan;

6 (ii) being managed in accordance with
7 applicable lifecycle management policies
8 and guidance; and

9 (iii) subject to applicable planning and
10 investment control requirements of the De-
11 partment.

12 (D) A statement as to whether the plan
13 has been reviewed by the Comptroller General
14 of the United States.

15 (b) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF
16 CONGRESS.—In this section, the term “appropriate com-
17 mittees of Congress” means—

1 **SEC. 4. BUDGET JUSTIFICATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF**
2 **VETERANS AFFAIRS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.**
3

4 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that
5 whenever the budget justification materials are submitted
6 to Congress in support of the Department of Veterans Af-
7 fairs budget for a fiscal year (as submitted with the budg-
8 et of the President for such fiscal year under section
9 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code), such budget jus-
10 tification materials include a specific accounting, including
11 life cycle costs, of all funds requested for the information
12 technology programs of the Department.

13 **SEC. 5. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMPLIANCE**
14 **WITH OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**
15 **DATA CENTER OPTIMIZATION INITIATIVE.**

16 (a) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
17 fairs shall ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs
18 complies with all applicable requirements of the Data Cen-
19 ter Optimization Initiative (DCOI) of the Office of Man-
20 agement and Budget, including by—

21 (1) fully identifying the data center inventory of
22 the Department; and
23 (2) meeting any targets assigned by the Direc-
24 tor of the Office of Management and Budget pursu-
25 ant to such initiative regarding data center closures,
26 optimization savings, and optimization metrics.

1 (b) PLAN FOR COMPLIANCE.—Not later than 90 days
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
3 shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the
4 Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the
5 House of Representatives a plan to fully comply with the
6 requirements described in subsection (a).

7 (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than March 31,
8 2020, and in March of each year thereafter until the date
9 on which the Director of the Office of Management and
10 Budget determines that the Department is in full compli-
11 ance with the requirements of the initiative referred to in
12 subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
13 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Com-
14 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representa-
15 tives a report on the progress of the Secretary in carrying
16 out the plan submitted under subsection (b).

17 **SEC. 6. ANNUAL LIST OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
18 **FAIRS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
19 **PROJECTS.**

20 (a) ANNUAL LIST.—Not less frequently than once
21 each year, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit
22 to the appropriate committees of Congress a comprehen-
23 sive, prioritized list of all information technology projects
24 being funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs,
25 disaggregated by business line or portfolio division.

1 (b) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF
2 CONGRESS.—In this section, the term “appropriate com-
3 mittees of Congress” means—

4 (1) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the
5 Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and
6 (2) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the
7 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
8 resentatives.

9 SEC. 7. ASSESSMENT OF SUITABILITY OF DEPARTMENT OF
10 VETERANS AFFAIRS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENTS FOR MIGRATION TO
11 CLOUD COMPUTING SERVICE.

(a) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, acting through the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Veterans Affairs, shall complete an assessment, in accordance with guidance from the Office of Management and Budget, of all information technology investments of the Department of Veterans Affairs to determine the suitability of the investments for migration to a cloud computing service.

22 (b) MECHANISM TO TRACK SAVINGS.—The Sec-
23 retary shall create a consistent and repeatable mechanism
24 to track savings and cost avoidances from—

1 (1) migration of information technology invest-
2 ments to cloud computing services; and

3 (2) deployment of cloud computing services.

4 (c) REPORT ON SPENDING.—Not later than 180 days
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary,
6 acting through the Chief, shall submit to the appropriate
7 committees of Congress a report on spending by the De-
8 partment on information technology investments,
9 disaggregated by information technology investment.

10 (d) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF
11 CONGRESS.—In this section, the term “appropriate com-
12 mittees of Congress” means—

13 (1) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the
14 Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

15 (2) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the
16 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
17 resentatives.

18 SEC. 8. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS INFORMA-
19 TION TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT POLICIES
20 WITH RESPECT TO ROLE OF CHIEF INFORMA-
21 TION OFFICER.

22 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that
23 the information technology management policies of the
24 Department of Veterans Affairs address the role of the

- 1 Chief Information Officer of the Department with respect
- 2 to the following key responsibilities:
 - 3 (1) Information technology strategic planning.
 - 4 (2) Information technology workforce.
 - 5 (3) Information technology planning, program-
 - 6 ming, and budgeting.
 - 7 (4) Information technology investment manage-
 - 8 ment.
 - 9 (5) Innovations and emerging technologies.

10 **SEC. 9. CONTINUOUS MONITORING STRATEGY TO IMPROVE**
11 **INFORMATION SECURITY PROGRAMS OF DE-**
12 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

13 In order to improve information security programs of
14 the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Vet-
15 erans Affairs shall develop a continuous monitoring strat-
16 egy that addresses the following:

- 17 (1) Organization-defined metrics.
- 18 (2) Frequency of monitoring metrics.
- 19 (3) Ongoing status monitoring of metrics.
- 20 (4) Reporting of security status.

1 **SEC. 10. REVISION OF PROCESSES OF DEPARTMENT OF**
2 **VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE OF INFORMA-**
3 **TION AND TECHNOLOGY RELATING TO RISK**
4 **MANAGEMENT.**

5 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
7 erans Affairs, acting through the Chief Information Offi-
8 cer of the Department of Veterans Affairs, shall revise the
9 processes of the Office of Information and Technology of
10 the Department relating to risk management to include
11 the following:

12 (1) Determining costs and benefits of imple-
13 menting the risk mitigation plan for each risk.
14 (2) Collecting performance measures on risk
15 handling activities.

16 (b) **REVIEW BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE**
17 **UNITED STATES.**—Not later than 180 days after the date
18 of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of
19 the United States shall complete a review of the processes
20 revised pursuant to subsection (a).

Passed the Senate July 30, 2020.

Attest:

Secretary.

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