

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3368

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 9, 2021

Mr. CORNYN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership program 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “VITAL Assessment
5 Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. VETERANS INTEGRATION TO ACADEMIC LEADER-**
2 **SHIP PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF**
3 **VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) REPORT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
7 retary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Com-
8 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the
9 Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of
10 Representatives a report on the Veterans Integration
11 to Academic Leadership program of the Department
12 of Veterans Affairs.

13 (2) CONTENTS.—The report required by para-
14 graph (1) shall include the following:

15 (A) The number of medical centers of the
16 Department, institutions of higher learning,
17 noncollege degree programs, and student vet-
18 erans supported by the program, and relevant
19 trends since the program began.

20 (B) The staff and resources allocated to
21 the program, and relevant trends since the pro-
22 gram began.

23 (C) An assessment of the outcomes and ef-
24 fectiveness of the program in—

25 (i) supporting student veterans;

1 (ii) connecting student veterans to
2 needed services of the Department or serv-
3 ices provided by non-Department entities;

4 (iii) addressing the mental health
5 needs of student veterans;

6 (iv) lowering the suicide risk of stu-
7 dent veterans; and

8 (v) helping student veterans achieve
9 educational goals.

10 (D) An assessment of barriers to expand-
11 ing the program and how the Secretary intends
12 to address such barriers.

13 (E) An assessment of whether the program
14 should be expanded outside of the Office of
15 Mental Health and Suicide Prevention to sup-
16 port student veterans with needs unrelated to
17 mental health or suicide.

18 (b) UNIFORM BEST PRACTICES, GOALS, AND MEAS-
19 URES.—The Secretary shall establish best practices, goals,
20 and measures for the Veterans Integration to Academic
21 Leadership program of the Department that are uniform
22 among the medical centers of the Department.

23 (c) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall conduct out-
24 reach among the Armed Forces, veterans service organiza-
25 tions, institutions of higher learning, and non-college de-

1 gree programs with respect to the Veterans Integration
 2 to Academic Leadership program of the Department.

3 (d) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall assess the
 4 feasibility and advisability of including the suicide rate for
 5 student veterans in the National Veteran Suicide Preven-
 6 tion Annual Report of the Office of Mental Health and
 7 Suicide Prevention of the Department.

8 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING.—The
 10 term “institution of higher learning” has the mean-
 11 ing given that term in section 3452 of title 38,
 12 United States Code.

13 (2) STUDENT VETERAN.—The term “student
 14 veteran” means the following:

15 (A) A veteran or member of the Armed
 16 Forces using educational assistance under any
 17 of the following provisions of law:

18 (i) Chapter 30, 31, 32, or 33 of title
 19 38, United States Code, or chapter 1606
 20 or 1607 of title 10, United States Code.

21 (ii) Section 116 of the Harry W.
 22 Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance
 23 Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–48; 38
 24 U.S.C. 3001 note).

1 (iii) Section 8006 of the American
2 Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law
3 117–2; 38 U.S.C. 3001 note prec.).

4 (B) A veteran who is enrolled in an institu-
5 tion of higher learning or other training pro-
6 gram, without regard to whether the veteran is
7 using educational assistance specified in sub-
8 paragraph (A).

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