

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1658

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs an Under Secretary for Management, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2023

Mr. TAKANO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs an Under Secretary for Management, 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 “Manage VA Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. UNDER SECRETARY OF MANAGEMENT OF DEPART-**
6 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 38, United
8 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 307 the
9 following new section:

1 **“§ 307A. Under Secretary for Management**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is in the Department an
3 Under Secretary for Management, who is appointed by the
4 President, by and with the advice and consent of the Sen-
5 ate. The Under Secretary for Management shall report di-
6 rectly to the Deputy Secretary.

7 “(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Under Secretary for
8 Management shall serve as the Chief Management Officer
9 of the Department and principal advisor to the Secretary
10 on matters related to the management of the Department,
11 including management integration and transformation in
12 support of Veterans Affairs operations and programs. The
13 Secretary shall carry out the following responsibilities
14 through the Under Secretary for Management:

15 “(1) The budget, appropriations, expenditures
16 of funds, accounting, and finance.

17 “(2) Procurement, including infrastructure,
18 property, equipment, and other material resources.

19 “(3) Human resources and personnel.

20 “(4) Information technology, including policies
21 and directives to standardize information technology
22 systems across the components of the Department.

23 “(5) Strategic management planning and an-
24 nual performance planning and identification and
25 tracking of performance measures relating to the re-
26 sponsibilities of the Department.

1 “(6) The management integration and trans-
2 formation within each functional management dis-
3 cipline of the Department, including information
4 technology, financial management, acquisition man-
5 agement, and human capital management, to ensure
6 an efficient and orderly consolidation of functions
7 and personnel in the Department, including—

8 “(A) the development of centralized data
9 sources and connectivity of information sys-
10 tems, to the greatest extent practicable, to en-
11 hance program visibility, transparency, effec-
12 tiveness and coordination;

13 “(B) the development of standardized and
14 automated management information to manage
15 and oversee programs and make informed deci-
16 sions to improve the efficiency of the Depart-
17 ment;

18 “(C) the development of effective program
19 management and regular oversight mechanisms,
20 including clear roles and processes for program
21 governance, sharing of best practices, and ac-
22 cess to timely, reliable, and evaluated data on
23 all acquisitions and investments; and

24 “(D) the overall supervision, including the
25 conduct of internal audits and management

1 analyses, of the programs and activities of the
2 Department, including establishment of over-
3 sight procedures to ensure a full and effective
4 review of the efforts by components of the De-
5 partment to implement policies and procedures
6 of the Department for management integration
7 and transformation.

8 “(7) The development of a transition and suc-
9 cession plan, before December 1 of each year in
10 which a Presidential election is held, to guide the
11 transition of Department functions to a new Presi-
12 dential administration, and making such plan avail-
13 able to the next Secretary and Under Secretary for
14 Management and to the Committees on Veterans’
15 Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives.

16 “(8) Reporting to the Government Account-
17 ability Office every six months to demonstrate meas-
18 urable, sustainable progress made in implementing
19 the corrective action plans of the Department to ad-
20 dress the designation of acquisition management on
21 the bi-annual high-risk list of the Government Ac-
22 countability Office, until the Comptroller General of
23 the United States submits to the appropriate con-
24 gressional committees written notification of removal
25 of the high-risk designation.

1 “(9) The management of the Office of Enter-
2 prise Integration.

3 “(10) The supervision of the Director of Con-
4 struction and Facilities, who shall report directly to
5 the Under Secretary for Management.

6 “(11) Any other management duties that the
7 Secretary may designate.”.

8 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
9 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
10 after the item relating to section 307 the following new
11 item:

 “307A. Under Secretary for Management.”.

12 (c) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary
13 of Veterans Affairs shall appoint an individual to serve
14 as the Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Manage-
15 ment by not later than one year after the date of the en-
16 actment of this Act.

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