

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2431

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to require the employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive training developed by the Inspector General of the Department on reporting wrongdoing to, responding to requests from, and cooperating with the Office of Inspector General, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 22, 2021

Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. BOOZMAN) 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 require the employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive training developed by the Inspector General of the Department on reporting wrongdoing to, responding to requests from, and cooperating with the Office of Inspector General, 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 “Department of Vet-
5 erans Affairs Office of Inspector General Training Act of
6 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EMPLOYEE**
2 **TRAINING REGARDING OFFICE OF INSPEC-**
3 **TOR GENERAL.**

4 (a) TRAINING.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
5 shall require each employee of the Department of Veterans
6 Affairs to receive training that the Inspector General of
7 the Department shall develop on the reporting of wrong-
8 doing to, responding to requests from, and cooperating
9 with the Office of Inspector General.

10 (b) EMPLOYEES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the
11 Secretary shall require—

12 (1) each employee of the Department who was
13 employed by the Department on the day before the
14 date of the enactment of this Act undergo the train-
15 ing required by subsection (a) not later than one
16 year after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

17 (2) each employee of the Department who be-
18 gins employment with the Department on or after
19 the date of the enactment of this Act undergo the
20 training required by subsection (a) not later than
21 one year after the date on which the employment be-
22 gins.

23 (c) ELEMENTS.—Training developed and required
24 under subsection (a) shall include the following:

25 (1) Definition of the role, responsibilities, and
26 legal authority of the Inspector General of the De-

1 partment and the duties of employees of the Depart-
2 ment for engaging with the Office of the Inspector
3 General.

4 (2) Identification of the circumstances and
5 mechanisms for reporting fraud, waste, abuse, and
6 other wrongdoing to the Inspector General, including
7 making confidential complaints to the Inspector
8 General.

9 (3) Identification of the prohibitions and rem-
10 edies that help to protect Department employees
11 from retaliation when reporting wrongdoing to the
12 Inspector General.

13 (4) Recognition of opportunities to engage with
14 staff of the Office of the Inspector General to im-
15 prove Department programs, operations, and serv-
16 ices.

17 (d) DESIGN AND UPDATE.—The Inspector General of
18 the Department shall design, and update as the Inspector
19 General considers appropriate, the training developed and
20 required by subsection (a).

21 (e) SYSTEM.—The Secretary shall provide, via the
22 talent management system of the Department, or suc-
23 cessor system, the training developed and required under
24 subsection (a).

1 (f) RELATION TO CERTAIN TRAINING.—The Sec-
2 retary shall ensure that training developed and required
3 under subsection (a) is separate and distinct from training
4 provided under section 733 of title 38, United States
5 Code.

6 (g) NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES.—The Secretary shall
7 ensure that the Inspector General is afforded the oppor-
8 tunity, not less frequently than twice each year and as
9 frequently as the Inspector General considers appropriate
10 under extraordinary circumstances, to use the electronic
11 mail system of the Department to notify all authorized
12 users of such system of the following:

13 (1) The roles and responsibilities of the employ-
14 ees of the Department when engaging with the Of-
15 fice of the Inspector General.

16 (2) The availability of training provided under
17 subsection (a).

18 (3) How to access training provided under sub-
19 section (a).

20 (4) Information about how to contact the Office
21 of the Inspector General, including a link to any
22 website-based reporting form of the Office.

○