

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5203

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to update directives of the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding the management of acute sexual assault, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

Ms. MORRISON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to update directives of the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding the management of acute sexual assault, 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. DIRECTIVES REGARDING THE MANAGEMENT**
4 **OF ACUTE SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE DEPART-**
5 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) UPDATE.—Not later than 18 months after the
7 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
8 erans Affairs shall update directives of the Department

1 of Veterans Affairs regarding emergency management of
2 an acute sexual assault of a covered veteran, and ensure
3 that the policies, of each medical facility, and of police,
4 of the Department conform to such directive. Elements of
5 such directives and policies shall include the following:

6 (1) Updated policies and guidance for all em-
7 ployees of the Department of Veterans Affairs who
8 respond to covered veterans.

9 (2) A requirement that the director of a medical
10 facility of the Department—

11 (A) employs a certified SAFE clinical pro-
12 vider or a SANE certified through curricula
13 such as those developed by the International
14 Association of Forensic Nurses;

15 (B) refers, pursuant to section 1703 of
16 title 38, United States Code, covered veterans
17 to a local non-Department health care provider
18 that employs a certified SAFE clinical provider
19 or a SANE; or

20 (C) coordinates with the Under Secretary
21 for Health and the Director of the Veteran In-
22 tegrated Service Network concerned regarding
23 alternate plans of care for covered veterans at
24 such facility.

1 (3) Requirements in the emergency medicine
2 and urgent care directives of the Veterans Health
3 Administration that a medical facility of the Depart-
4 ment that employs a certified SAFE clinical provider
5 or a SANE maintains a supply of unexpired rape
6 kits.

7 (4) If clinically indicated, a covered veteran
8 shall be offered prophylaxes for sexually transmitted
9 disease and for pregnancy. If so indicated, the per-
10 sonnel of the facility shall provide, to the health care
11 providers of the facility who treat the covered vet-
12 eran, clinical practice guidelines or clinical order
13 sets.

14 (5) Each covered veteran shall be offered local
15 mental health care counseling or a referral to a men-
16 tal health care provider. If such referral is to a non-
17 Department provider, an appropriate employee of
18 the Department facility shall coordinate care with
19 the non-Department provider.

20 (6) Clear guidance regarding when and how a
21 police officer of the Department shall document the
22 notification of a local law enforcement agency of an
23 acute sexual assault of a covered veteran. Such guid-
24 ance shall balance the confidentiality of a covered

1 veteran with Federal, State, and local reporting re-
2 quirements.

3 (b) TRAINING.—

4 (1) FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE VHA.—Not less
5 than once each year after the Secretary updates di-
6 rectives under subsection (a), the Secretary shall
7 provide, to appropriate employees of the Veterans
8 Health Administration, training regarding the direc-
9 tives and policies updated in accordance with para-
10 graphs (1) through (5) of subsection (a).

11 (2) FOR POLICE OFFICERS OF THE DEPART-
12 MENT.—Not less than once each year after the Sec-
13 retary updates directives under subsection (a), the
14 Secretary shall provide, to each police officer of the
15 Department, a training regarding the guidance
16 under paragraph (6) of subsection (a) and devel-
17 oped—

18 (A) by the Director of the Office of Secu-
19 rity and Law Enforcement of the Department;
20 and

21 (B) in accordance with trauma-informed
22 sexual assault investigation curricula, such as
23 ones provided by the International Association
24 of Chiefs of Police; and

1 (3) FORMAT.—Training under this sub-
2 section—

3 (A) may be provided in-person or electroni-
4 cally;

5 (B) shall be provided in-person at least
6 once every five years to an employee of the De-
7 partment described in paragraph (1) or (2);

8 (C) shall include guided instruction;

9 (D) shall include information specific to
10 the facility of the Department where the em-
11 ployee works, including on-site resources and
12 State and local requirements; and

13 (E) may not consist solely of printed mate-
14 rials.

15 (c) OVERSIGHT.—The director of each Veteran Inte-
16 grated Service Networks shall monitor compliance with
17 the requirements of this Act and oversee cases with lack
18 of compliance to determine reasons for lack of compliance
19 and additional resources and support as determined nec-
20 essary by the Secretary to ensure compliance.

21 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) The term “acute sexual assault” means un-
23 wanted sexual contact with an alleged perpetrator.

1 (2) The term “covered veteran” means a vet-
2 eran who exhibits symptoms of acute sexual as-
3 sault—

4 (A) at a medical facility of the Department
5 of Veterans Affairs; and

6 (B) not later than 72 hours after such
7 acute sexual assault.

8 (3) The term “SAFE” means sexual assault fo-
9 rensic examination.

10 (4) The term “SANE” means a sexual assault
11 nurse examiner.

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