

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1383

AN ACT

To establish the Veterans Advisory Committee on Equal
Access, 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 “Veterans Accessibility
3 Advisory Committee Act of 2025”.

4 **SEC. 2. VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EQUAL AC-**
5 **CESS.**

6 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

7 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days
8 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
9 retary of Veterans Affairs shall establish within the
10 Department of Veterans Affairs an advisory com-
11 mittee on matters relating to accessibility of the De-
12 partment for individuals with disabilities.

13 (2) **DESIGNATION.**—The advisory committee es-
14 tablished by paragraph (1) shall be known as the
15 “Veterans Advisory Committee on Equal Access” (in
16 this section the “Advisory Committee”).

17 (b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

18 (1) **VOTING MEMBERS.**—The Advisory Com-
19 mittee shall be composed of 15 voting members, ap-
20 pointed by the Secretary. In appointing such mem-
21 bers, the Secretary shall ensure the following:

22 (A) Four are veterans with disabilities, in-
23 cluding mobility impairment, hearing, visual,
24 and mental or cognitive disabilities.

1 (B) Four are experts on issues described in
 2 subsection (f)(1)(A) or the provisions of law set
 3 forth under subsection (f)(1)(B).

4 (C) Two are employees of the Department,
 5 one from the Section 508 Office and one from
 6 the Architectural Accessibility Program, or suc-
 7 cessor programs or offices, who oversee the
 8 compliance of the Department with Federal ac-
 9 cessibility laws.

10 (D) Five are representatives nominated by
 11 national veterans service organizations that ad-
 12 vocate for veterans with physical, sensory, men-
 13 tal, or cognitive disabilities.

14 (2) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The Advisory
 15 Committee shall also include four ex officio members
 16 (or their designees):

17 (A) The Under Secretary for Health.

18 (B) The Under Secretary for Benefits.

19 (C) The Under Secretary for Memorial Af-
 20 fairs.

21 (D) The chairperson of the Architectural
 22 and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board
 23 (known as the “Access Board”).

24 (3) QUALIFICATIONS.—In selecting members
 25 under paragraph (1), in addition to any qualifica-

1 tions described in such paragraph, the Secretary of
 2 Veterans Affairs shall ensure that members are se-
 3 lected based on their ability to support the success
 4 of the Advisory Committee.

5 (c) TERMS; VACANCIES.—

6 (1) TERMS.—A member of the Advisory Com-
 7 mittee shall be appointed for a term of two years.
 8 The Secretary may reappoint members to the Advi-
 9 sory Committee for such additional two-year terms
 10 as the Secretary determines appropriate.

11 (2) VACANCIES.—The Secretary shall fill a va-
 12 cancy in the Advisory Committee in the same man-
 13 ner as the original appointment not later than 180
 14 days after such vacancy occurs.

15 (d) MEETINGS.—

16 (1) FREQUENCY.—The Advisory Committee
 17 shall meet not less frequently than twice each year.

18 (2) SUBCOMMITTEES.—The Advisory Com-
 19 mittee may form subcommittees, which shall meet as
 20 often as required.

21 (3) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of
 22 the Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum.

23 (e) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The
 24 Secretary shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
 25 from among the members of the Advisory Committee. If

1 the position of Chairperson or Vice Chairperson becomes
2 vacant, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall select a
3 new Chairperson or Vice Chairperson, as the case may be,
4 not later than 30 days after the date on which the position
5 became vacant.

6 (f) DUTIES.—

7 (1) REQUIREMENT TO CONSULT AND SEEK AD-
8 VICE.—On a regular basis, the Secretary shall con-
9 sult with and seek the advice of the Advisory Com-
10 mittee—

11 (A) on improving the accessibility of the
12 Department for individuals with disabilities, in-
13 cluding improving—

14 (i) the accessibility of information of
15 the Department, including electronic infor-
16 mation;

17 (ii) the accessibility of the services
18 and benefits furnished by the Department;

19 (iii) the accessibility in facilities or on
20 property of the Department;

21 (iv) the accessibility of facilities of
22 non-Department benefits services providers
23 or health care providers furnishing care or
24 services under programs administered by
25 the Department, including under the Vet-

erans Community Care Program under
section 1703 of title 38, United States
Code; and

(v) the acquisition process of the De-
partment to ensure that products and serv-
ices, including information technology and
information and communication technology
(as defined in the standards issued by the
Architectural and Transportation Barriers
Compliance Board pursuant to section 508
of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29
U.S.C. 794d)), are accessible when pur-
chased; and

(B) for ensuring the compliance of the De-
partment with provisions of law, where applica-
ble, relating to disability and accessibility, in-
cluding—

(i) the Americans with Disabilities Act
of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12184 et seq.);

(ii) sections 504 and 508 of the Reha-
bilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 791,
794, and 794d);

(iii) the Plain Writing Act of 2010 (5
U.S.C. 301 note);

(iv) the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 note);

(v) the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (Public Law 90–480); and

(vi) such other provisions of Federal law as may be that ensure equal access to Federal properties and facilities, benefits, or services for individuals with disabilities.

(2) PROVISION OF ADVICE.—In providing advice to the Secretary, the Advisory Committee shall, focusing on the areas of greatest need for the Department—

(A) assess the disability access needs of veterans, the public, and Department employees for full access to the Department’s information, services, and benefits by reviewing relevant information, such as filed complaints by people with disabilities or physical assessments of the Department’s properties and facilities;

(B) provide assessments of accessibility at the Department and the compliance of the Department with applicable provisions of law relating to disability and accessibility; and

1 (C) provide advice on improving accessi-
2 bility at the Department, including the accessi-
3 bility of all—

4 (i) communications, including internal
5 and public facing;

6 (ii) services and benefits; and

7 (iii) facilities.

8 (3) REPORTS.—

9 (A) REPORTS TO THE SECRETARY.—Not
10 later than two years after the date of the first
11 meeting of the Advisory Committee, and not
12 less frequently than once every two years there-
13 after, the Advisory Committee shall submit to
14 the Secretary a report that, focusing on areas
15 of greatest need for the Department—

16 (i) identifies and assesses access bar-
17 riers affecting veterans, the public, and
18 employees of the Department;

19 (ii) determines the extent to which the
20 programs and activities of the Department
21 address the barriers identified in clause (i),
22 including compliance of the Department
23 with provisions of law relating to accessi-
24 bility law and reporting;

(iii) provides recommendations and access priorities to improve the accessibility of the Department's services, benefits, information, technology, and facilities;

(iv) provides a description of access improvements and assesses the Department's implementation of recommendations from previous reports of the Advisory Committee, including any unmet recommendations that remain necessary for improving accessibility for the Department; and

(v) provides any recommendations for legislation, administrative action, or other actions that the Advisory Committee determines appropriate.

(B) REPORTS TO CONGRESS AND FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the receipt of a report required under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a copy of such report and any comments and recommendations

1 of the Secretary concerning such report
 2 that the Secretary determines appropriate.

3 (ii) AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.—

4 The Secretary shall publish on a publicly
 5 accessible website of the Department such
 6 report and such comments and rec-
 7 ommendations as may have been submitted
 8 along with such report.

9 (iii) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL
 10 COMMITTEES.—In this subparagraph, the
 11 term “appropriate congressional commit-
 12 tees” means—

13 (I) the Committees on Veterans’
 14 Affairs of the Senate and House of
 15 Representatives;

16 (II) the Special Committee on
 17 Aging of the Senate; and

18 (III) the Committee on Edu-
 19 cation and the Workforce of the
 20 House of Representatives.

21 (g) ADVISORY COMMITTEE PERSONNEL AND RE-
 22 SOURCE MATTERS.—

23 (1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—(A) A
 24 member of the Advisory Committee who is not an of-
 25 ficer or employee of the Federal Government shall

1 not be compensated for the performance of the du-
2 ties of the Advisory Committee.

3 (B) Members of the Advisory Committee who
4 are officers or employees of the Federal Government
5 shall not receive additional compensation beyond
6 travel for the performance of the duties of the Advi-
7 sory Committee.

8 (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Ad-
9 visory Committee shall be allowed travel expenses,
10 including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates
11 authorized for employees of agencies under sub-
12 chapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States
13 Code, while away from their homes or regular places
14 of business in the performance of services for the
15 Advisory Committee.

16 (3) RESOURCES.—The Secretary shall ensure
17 that such personnel, funding, and other resources
18 are made available to the Advisory Committee as the
19 Secretary determines appropriate to carry out the
20 duties of the Advisory Committee.

21 (4) INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall furnish
22 to the Advisory Committee such information as the
23 Advisory Committee may request from the Sec-
24 retary, subject to applicable provisions of law.

- 1 (h) TERMINATION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The
2 Advisory Committee shall terminate on the date that is
3 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Passed the Senate December 18, 2025.

Attest:

Secretary.

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