

Calendar No. 276

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**S. 1383**

To establish the Veterans Advisory Committee on Equal Access, and for
other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 9, 2025

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MORAN, Mr.
BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. KING, and Ms. HASSAN) introduced the
following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on
Veterans' Affairs

DECEMBER 2, 2025

Reported by Mr. MORAN, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Accessibility
5 Advisory Committee Act of 2025”.

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

3 **(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—**

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

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

14 **(b) MEMBERSHIP.—**

15 **(1) VOTING MEMBERS.—**The Advisory Com-
 16 mittee shall be composed of 15 voting members, ap-
 17 pointed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. In ap-
 18 pointing such members, the Secretary shall ensure
 19 the following:

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

23 **(B)** Four are experts on issues described in
 24 subsection (f)(1)(A) or the provisions of law set
 25 forth under subsection (f)(1)(B).

1 ~~(C) Two are employees of the Department,~~
 2 ~~one from the Section 508 Office and one from~~
 3 ~~the Architectural Accessibility Program, who~~
 4 ~~oversee the compliance of the Department with~~
 5 ~~Federal accessibility laws.~~

6 ~~(D) Five are representatives nominated by~~
 7 ~~national veterans service organizations that ad-~~
 8 ~~vocate for veterans with physical, sensory, men-~~
 9 ~~tal, or cognitive disabilities.~~

10 ~~(2) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The Advisory~~
 11 ~~Committee shall also include four ex officio members~~
 12 ~~(or their designees):~~

13 ~~(A) The Under Secretary for Health.~~

14 ~~(B) The Under Secretary for Benefits.~~

15 ~~(C) The Under Secretary for Memorial Af-~~
 16 ~~fairs.~~

17 ~~(D) The chairperson of the Architectural~~
 18 ~~and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board~~
 19 ~~(known as the “Access Board”).~~

20 ~~(e) TERMS; VACANCIES.—~~

21 ~~(1) TERMS.—A member of the Advisory Com-~~
 22 ~~mittee shall be appointed for a term of two years.~~
 23 ~~The Secretary may reappoint members to the Advi-~~
 24 ~~sory Committee for such additional two-year terms~~
 25 ~~as the Secretary determines appropriate.~~

1 (2) VACANCIES.—The Secretary shall fill a va-
 2 caney in the Advisory Committee in the same man-
 3 ner as the original appointment not later than 180
 4 days after such vacancy occurs.

5 (d) MEETINGS.—

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

8 (2) SUBCOMMITTEES.—The Advisory Com-
 9 mittee may form subcommittees, which shall meet as
 10 often as required.

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

13 (e) CHAIRPERSON.—Members of the Advisory Com-
 14 mittee shall select a Chairperson from among the members
 15 of the Advisory Committee. If the position of Chairperson
 16 becomes vacant, the members of the Advisory Committee
 17 shall select a new Chairperson not later than 30 days after
 18 the date on which the position became vacant.

19 (f) DUTIES.—

20 (1) REQUIREMENT TO CONSULT AND SEEK AD-
 21 VICE.—On a regular basis, the Secretary shall con-
 22 sult with and seek the advice of the Advisory Com-
 23 mittee—

1 (A) on improving the accessibility of the
2 Department for individuals with disabilities, in-
3 cluding improving—

4 (i) the accessibility of information of
5 the Department, including electronic infor-
6 mation;

7 (ii) the accessibility of the services
8 and benefits furnished by the Department;

9 (iii) the accessibility of the facilities of
10 the Department;

11 (iv) the accessibility of facilities of
12 health care providers furnishing care or
13 services under the Veterans Community
14 Care Program under section 1703 of title
15 38, United States Code; and

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

(B) for ensuring the compliance of the Department with provisions of law relating to disability and accessibility, including—

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

(ii) sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation 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 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;

1 services, and benefits by reviewing relevant in-
 2 formation, such as filed complaints by people
 3 with disabilities or physical assessments of the
 4 Department's facilities;

5 (B) provide assessments of accessibility at
 6 the Department and the compliance of the De-
 7 partment with applicable provisions of law re-
 8 lating to disability and accessibility; and

9 (C) provide advice on improving accessi-
 10 bility at the Department, including the accessi-
 11 bility of all—

12 (i) communications, including internal
 13 and public facing;

14 (ii) services and benefits; and

15 (iii) facilities.

16 ~~(3) REPORTS.—~~

17 ~~(A) REPORTS TO THE SECRETARY.—~~Not
 18 later than two years after the date of the first
 19 meeting of the Advisory Committee, and not
 20 less frequently than once every two years there-
 21 after, the Advisory Committee shall submit to
 22 the Secretary a report that, focusing on areas
 23 of greatest need for the Department—

1 (i) identifies and assesses access bar-
2 riers affecting veterans, the public, and
3 employees of the Department;

4 (ii) determines the extent to which the
5 programs and activities of the Department
6 address the barriers identified in clause (i);
7 including compliance of the Department
8 with provisions of law relating to accessi-
9 bility law and reporting;

10 (iii) provides recommendations and
11 access priorities to improve the accessi-
12 bility of the Department's services, bene-
13 fits, information, technology, and facilities;

14 (iv) provides a description of access
15 improvements and assesses the Depart-
16 ment's implementation of recommendations
17 from previous reports of the Advisory
18 Committee, including any unmet rec-
19 ommendations that remain necessary for
20 improving accessibility for the Department;
21 and

22 (v) provides any recommendations for
23 legislation, administrative action, or other
24 actions that the Advisory Committee deter-
25 mines appropriate.

(B) REPORTS TO CONGRESS AND FEDERAL
AGENCIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 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 of the Secretary concerning such report that the Secretary determines appropriate.

(ii) AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.—The Secretary shall publish on a publicly accessible website of the Department such report and such comments and recommendations as may have been submitted along with such report.

(iii) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this subparagraph, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

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

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

1 (III) the Committee on Edu-
2 cation and Workforce of the House of
3 Representatives.

4 (g) ADVISORY COMMITTEE PERSONNEL AND RE-
5 SOURCE MATTERS.—

6 (1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—A member
7 of the Commission who is not an officer or employee
8 of the Federal Government shall not be compensated
9 for the performance of the duties of the Advisory
10 Committee.

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

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

24 (4) INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall furnish
25 to the Advisory Committee such information as the

1 Advisory Committee may request from the Sec-
 2 retary, subject to applicable provisions of law.

3 (h) ~~TERMINATION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE.~~—The
 4 Advisory Committee shall terminate on the date that is
 5 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

6 **SEC. 3. ABOLITION OF INACTIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

7 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
 8 ment of this Act and before establishing the Veterans Ad-
 9 visory Committee on Equal Access under section 2, the
 10 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

11 (1) abolish an advisory committee of the De-
 12 partment of Veterans Affairs that—

13 (A) was not established by an Act of Con-
 14 gress; and

15 (B) is inactive;

16 (2) consolidate two advisory committees de-
 17 scribed in paragraph (1); or

18 (3) submit to the Committees on Veterans' Af-
 19 fairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a
 20 recommendation to abolish an advisory committee of
 21 the Department that—

22 (A) was established by an Act of Congress;
 23 and

24 (B) is inactive.

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 after*
 8 *the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of*
 9 *Veterans Affairs shall establish within the Depart-*
 10 *ment of Veterans Affairs an advisory committee on*
 11 *matters relating to accessibility of the Department for*
 12 *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 Committee*
 19 *shall be composed of 15 voting members, appointed by*
 20 *the Secretary. In appointing such members, the Sec-*
 21 *retary 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 the*
 6 *Architectural Accessibility Program, or successor*
 7 *programs or offices, who oversee the compliance*
 8 *of the Department with Federal accessibility*
 9 *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 Com-*
 15 *mittee shall also include four ex officio members (or*
 16 *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 of*
 4 *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. The*
 8 *Secretary may reappoint members to the Advisory*
 9 *Committee for such additional two-year terms as the*
 10 *Secretary determines appropriate.*

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

15 *(d) MEETINGS.—*

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

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

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

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

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

6 *(f) DUTIES.—*

7 *(1) REQUIREMENT TO CONSULT AND SEEK AD-*
 8 *VICE.—On a regular basis, the Secretary shall consult*
 9 *with and seek the advice of the Advisory Committee—*

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

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

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

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

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

tion 1703 of title 38, United States Code;
and

(v) the acquisition process of the Department to ensure that products and services, 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 purchased; and
(B) for ensuring the compliance of the Department with provisions of law, where applicable, relating to disability and accessibility, including—

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

(ii) sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation 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);

1 (v) *the Architectural Barriers Act of*
2 1968 (Public Law 90–480); and

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

7 (2) *PROVISION OF ADVICE.—In providing advice*
8 *to the Secretary, the Advisory Committee shall, focus-*
9 *ing on the areas of greatest need for the Depart-*
10 *ment—*

11 (A) *assess the disability access needs of vet-*
12 *erans, the public, and Department employees for*
13 *full access to the Department’s information, serv-*
14 *ices, and benefits by reviewing relevant informa-*
15 *tion, such as filed complaints by people with dis-*
16 *abilities or physical assessments of the Depart-*
17 *ment’s properties and facilities;*

18 (B) *provide assessments of accessibility at*
19 *the Department and the compliance of the De-*
20 *partment with applicable provisions of law relat-*
21 *ing to disability and accessibility; and*

22 (C) *provide advice on improving accessi-*
23 *bility at the Department, including the accessi-*
24 *bility of all—*

- 1 (i) *communications, including internal*
- 2 *and public facing;*
- 3 (ii) *services and benefits; and*
- 4 (iii) *facilities.*

5 (3) *REPORTS.—*

6 (A) *REPORTS TO THE SECRETARY.—Not*
 7 *later than two years after the date of the first*
 8 *meeting of the Advisory Committee, and not less*
 9 *frequently than once every two years thereafter,*
 10 *the Advisory Committee shall submit to the Sec-*
 11 *retary a report that, focusing on areas of greatest*
 12 *need for the Department—*

13 (i) *identifies and assesses access bar-*
 14 *riers affecting veterans, the public, and em-*
 15 *ployees of the Department;*

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

22 (iii) *provides recommendations and ac-*
 23 *cess priorities to improve the accessibility of*
 24 *the Department’s services, benefits, informa-*
 25 *tion, technology, and facilities;*

1 (iv) provides a description of access
 2 improvements and assesses the Department's
 3 implementation of recommendations from
 4 previous reports of the Advisory Committee,
 5 including any unmet recommendations that
 6 remain necessary for improving accessi-
 7 bility for the Department; and

8 (v) provides any recommendations for
 9 legislation, administrative action, or other
 10 actions that the Advisory Committee deter-
 11 mines appropriate.

12 (B) REPORTS TO CONGRESS AND FEDERAL
 13 AGENCIES.—

14 (i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
 15 days after the receipt of a report required
 16 under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall
 17 submit to the appropriate congressional
 18 committees a copy of such report and any
 19 comments and recommendations of the Sec-
 20 retary concerning such report that the Sec-
 21 retary determines appropriate.

22 (ii) AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.—
 23 The Secretary shall publish on a publicly
 24 accessible website of the Department such
 25 report and such comments and rec-

ommendations as may have been submitted
along with such report.

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

(I) *the Committees on Veterans’
Affairs of the Senate and House of
Representatives;*

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

(III) *the Committee on Education
and the Workforce of the House of Rep-
resentatives.*

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

(1) *COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.*—(A) *A mem-
ber of the Advisory Committee who is not an officer
or employee of the Federal Government shall not be
compensated for the performance of the duties of the
Advisory Committee.*

(B) *Members of the Advisory Committee who are
officers or employees of the Federal Government shall
not receive additional compensation beyond travel for*

1 *the performance of the duties of the Advisory Com-*
2 *mittee.*

3 (2) *TRAVEL EXPENSES.*—*A member of the Advi-*
4 *sory Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, in-*
5 *cluding per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates au-*
6 *thorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I*
7 *of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while*
8 *away from their homes or regular places of business*
9 *in the performance of services for the Advisory Com-*
10 *mittee.*

11 (3) *RESOURCES.*—*The Secretary shall ensure*
12 *that such personnel, funding, and other resources are*
13 *made available to the Advisory Committee as the Sec-*
14 *retary determines appropriate to carry out the duties*
15 *of the Advisory Committee.*

16 (4) *INFORMATION.*—*The Secretary shall furnish*
17 *to the Advisory Committee such information as the*
18 *Advisory Committee may request from the Secretary,*
19 *subject to applicable provisions of law.*

20 (h) *TERMINATION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE.*—*The*
21 *Advisory Committee shall terminate on the date that is 10*
22 *years after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

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119TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

S. 1383

A BILL

To establish the Veterans Advisory Committee on
Equal Access, and for other purposes.

DECEMBER 2, 2025
Reported with an amendment