

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3110

To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disability and pension benefits provided to members of the National Guard and members of reserve components of the Armed Forces by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 19, 2019

Mr. TILLIS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disability and pension benefits provided to members of the National Guard and members of reserve components of the Armed Forces by the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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 “Identifying Barriers
5 and Best Practices Study Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY ON DISABILITY**
2 **AND PENSION BENEFITS PROVIDED TO MEM-**
3 **BERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND MEM-**
4 **BERS OF RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE**
5 **ARMED FORCES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF**
6 **VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

7 (a) **STUDY REQUIRED.**—Not later than 36 months
8 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comp-
9 troller General of the United States shall complete a study
10 on disability and pension benefits provided to members of
11 the National Guard and members of reserve components
12 of the Armed Forces by the Department of Veterans Af-
13 fairs.

14 (b) **ELEMENTS.**—In conducting such study required
15 by subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall review,
16 for the period beginning on January 1, 2008, and ending
17 on December 31, 2018, each of the following:

18 (1) The number of members of the National
19 Guard and the number of members of reserve com-
20 ponents of the Armed Forces who received disability
21 compensation or pension provided by the Depart-
22 ment of Veterans Affairs.

23 (2) A comparison of each of the following be-
24 tween veterans who served in the National Guard or
25 reserve components and veterans who served in the
26 regular components of the Armed Forces:

1 (A) The percentage of each group of such
2 veterans with service-connected disabilities.

3 (B) The number of veterans in each group
4 with each disability rating.

5 (C) The number of veterans in each group
6 with a service-connected disability, including the
7 number of each of the following types of such
8 veterans in each group:

9 (i) Pilots.

10 (ii) Veterans who served in the special
11 forces.

12 (iii) Veterans who participated in the
13 Personnel Reliability Program.

14 (iv) Veterans who underwent diving or
15 flight physicals as a regular component of
16 their service in the Armed Forces and who
17 have a muscular-skeletal or mental health
18 condition.

19 (D) The number of total claims for dis-
20 ability compensation and pension submitted, ap-
21 proved, and disapproved for each group of vet-
22 erans.

23 (3) An identification of common barriers for
24 members of the National Guard and members of re-
25 serve components in obtaining disability benefits

1 under the laws administered by the Secretary of Vet-
2 erans Affairs, including barriers relating to docu-
3 mentation of injuries incurred while serving, such as
4 line of duty letters.

5 (c) REPORTS.—

6 (1) PRELIMINARY REPORT.—Not later than
7 540 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
8 the Comptroller General shall submit to the Com-
9 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the
10 Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of
11 Representatives a preliminary report on the findings
12 of the Comptroller General with respect to the study
13 required by subsection (a).

14 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Upon completion of the
15 study, the Comptroller General shall submit to such
16 committees a final report on such study.

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