



118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on competition among suppliers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WICKER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on competition among suppliers of 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 "Vetting for Equal
5 Treatment of Small Business Act of 2023" or the "VETS
6 Business Act of 2023".

1 **SEC. 2. REPORT ON COMPETITION IN DEPARTMENT OF**
2 **VETERANS AFFAIRS INDUSTRIAL BASE.**

3 (a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following find-
4 ings:

5 (1) The Department of Veterans Affairs offers
6 services to veterans that require the Department to
7 enter into the Federal contracting process.

8 (2) The Office of Small and Disadvantaged
9 Business Utilization (OSDBU) of the Department
10 works to develop policies and programs that improve
11 market research, increase direct access, and maxi-
12 mize the participation of procurement veteran-owned
13 small businesses and service-disabled veteran-owned
14 small businesses in Federal contracting.

15 (3) The Competition in Contracting Act of
16 1984 (Public Law 98-369; 98 Stat. 1175) was en-
17 acted to encourage competition in Government con-
18 tracts to improve savings for the Government.

19 (4) A lack of competition could artificially raise
20 costs incurred by the Department in future contract
21 decisions.

22 (b) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days
23 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
24 of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Vet-
25 erans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Vet-
26 erans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report

1 on the state of competition among suppliers of the Depart-
2 ment of Veterans Affairs.

3 (c) CONTENTS.—The report submitted pursuant to
4 subsection (b) shall include the following:

5 (1) An examination of the number of contrac-
6 tors in the industrial base that supports the Depart-
7 ment.

8 (2) Identification of areas for competition with-
9 in such industrial base that need improvement.

10 (3) Identification of specific areas within the in-
11 dustrial base where competition has either increased
12 or decreased in sole source contract decisions.

13 (4) Recommendations of legislative or adminis-
14 trative action to improve competition among sup-
15 pliers of the Department.

16 (d) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the report re-
17 quired by subsection (b), the Secretary shall consult with
18 the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utiliza-
19 tion of the Department.

20 (e) MODEL.—To the degree practicable, the Sec-
21 retary shall use as a model for the report required by sub-
22 section (a) the report of the Under Secretary of Defense
23 for Acquisition and Sustainment entitled “State of Com-
24 petition within the Defense Industrial Base” and dated
25 February, 2022.

1 (f) PUBLICATION.—After submitting the report re-
2 quired by subsection (b) in accordance with such sub-
3 section, the Secretary shall make the report available to
4 the public.