

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S.

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the President to define veteran success and to develop and implement a National Veterans Strategy, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the President to define veteran success and to develop and implement a National Veterans Strategy, 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 “National Veterans
5 Strategy Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

4 (2) Veterans who are successful across various
5 aspects of their lives after their service in the Armed
6 Forces provide a continued return on investment to
7 the United States for the time and resources spent
8 on their training that made them successful in the
9 Armed Forces.

10 (3) Veterans bring highly valued skills to the ci-
11 vilian workforce, including leadership, problem-solv-
12 ing, technical expertise, and teamwork that make
13 the economy of the United States stronger.

14 (4) Veterans' success after service can include
15 starting a business, working in public service, raising
16 a family, pursuing further education, competing in
17 athletics, working to serve other veterans, and im-
18 proving overall health.

24 (6) A veteran who uses military experience and
25 veteran benefits to achieve success after leaving serv-

1 ice in the Armed Forces is a positive influence on
2 the next generation of people of the United States
3 who will consider serving in the Armed Forces.

4 **SEC. 3. DEFINING VETERAN SUCCESS AND NATIONAL VET-
5 ERANS STRATEGY.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter I of title 38, United
7 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
8 lowing new section:

9 **“§ 120. Defining veteran success and National Vet-**

10 **erans Strategy**

11 “(a) DEFINING VETERAN SUCCESS.—

12 “(1) METRICS REQUIRED.—The President
13 shall, in collaboration with the key stakeholders de-
14 scribed in paragraph (3), establish metrics to deter-
15 mine the well-being of the population of veterans.

16 “(2) AREAS.—The metrics established pursuant
17 to paragraph (1) shall apply to areas of physical
18 health, mental health, spiritual health, economic se-
19 curity and opportunity, education, family and social
20 engagement, and civic engagement.

21 “(3) KEY STAKEHOLDERS.—The key stake-
22 holders described in this paragraph are such stake-
23 holders as the President considers key stakeholders
24 for purposes of this subsection and shall include the
25 following:

- 1 “(A) Congress.
- 2 “(B) The Secretary.
- 3 “(C) The Secretary of Defense.
- 4 “(D) The Secretary of Labor.
- 5 “(E) The Secretary of Health and Human
- 6 Services.
- 7 “(F) The Secretary of Housing and Urban
- 8 Development.
- 9 “(G) The Administrator of the Small Busi-
- 10 ness Administration.
- 11 “(H) State governments.
- 12 “(I) Local governments.
- 13 “(J) Tribal organizations.
- 14 “(K) Veterans service organizations.
- 15 “(L) Nonprofit organizations that serve
- 16 veterans.
- 17 “(M) Institutions of higher learning.
- 18 “(N) Research organizations with expertise
- 19 on the veteran population.
- 20 “(O) Philanthropy associations.
- 21 “(P) Trade and professional associations.
- 22 “(Q) Private sector companies, including
- 23 both large corporations and small business con-
- 24 cerns.

25 “(b) NATIONAL VETERANS STRATEGY.—

1 “(1) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—The President
2 shall formulate and submit to Congress, not less fre-
3 quently than once every four years, a national strat-
4 egy (in this subsection referred to as the ‘Strategy’)
5 to align the resources and efforts of various govern-
6 ment, nonprofit, and private sector organizations to
7 help veterans achieve success in the metrics estab-
8 lished under subsection (a)(1).

9 “(2) CONSULTATION.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In formulating the
11 Strategy, the President shall consult with the
12 key stakeholders specified under subsection
13 (a)(3) and the general public.

14 “(B) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—The Presi-
15 dent shall ensure that consultation under sub-
16 paragraph (A) includes public input through
17 public hearings, surveys, or such other methods
18 as the President considers appropriate to gather
19 feedback from veterans, families of veterans,
20 and the general public.

21 “(3) CONSIDERATION OF NEEDS ACROSS DEMO-
22 GRAPHICS.—The Strategy shall include consideration
23 of the various needs of veterans across demographics
24 that include age, geographic locations, sex, race, pe-

1 riod of military service, disability, health conditions,
2 education level, and marital and family status.

3 “(4) METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF OVERALL
4 WELL-BEING.—The Strategy shall provide for meth-
5 ods to evaluate overall well-being of veterans using
6 the metrics established under subsection (a)(1).

7 “(5) DIRECTION FOR APPLICATION OF BENE-
8 FITS AND SERVICES.—The Strategy shall—

9 “(A) provide direction for what benefits
10 and services should be applied to assist veterans
11 who do not meet the metrics established under
12 subsection (a)(1) in certain areas of health and
13 well-being; and

14 “(B) prescribe how and by whom such
15 services and benefits should be applied to maxi-
16 mize effectiveness and efficiency across Federal,
17 State, local, nonprofit, and private sector re-
18 sources.

19 “(6) DELINEATION OF SERVICES PROVIDED TO
20 ORGANIZATIONS.—The Strategy may include delin-
21 eation of what services should be provided by certain
22 types of government or nongovernmental organiza-
23 tions, as well as in what order different types of
24 services or benefits should be provided to achieve the
25 best result in the most efficient manner.

1 “(7) DIRECT SERVICES AND FEDERAL
2 GRANTS.—The Strategy may include considerations
3 on how best to coordinate the use of both direct
4 services provided by Federal agencies, as well as
5 Federal grants for State and local governments and
6 nonprofit organizations, or the use of commercial
7 services, to provide direct services to veterans.

8 “(8) EVALUATION OF OUTCOMES.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Strategy shall in-
10 clude standard metrics to evaluate the outcomes
11 achieved from delivering services and benefits to
12 veterans.

13 “(B) CONSISTENT AND UNIFORM APPLICA-
14 TION OF METRICS.—Each Federal agency and
15 recipient of a Federal grant, as a condition on
16 continued receipt of the grant, shall apply the
17 standard metrics included under subparagraph
18 (A) consistently and uniformly across programs.

19 “(c) CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL PROCEDURES.—
20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
21 provision of this section, the President may not take
22 any action with regard to a national strategy devel-
23 oped under subsection (b) if, within 60 days after
24 the date on which Congress receives a national strat-

1 egy under such subsection, Congress enacts a joint
2 resolution disapproving the national strategy.

3 “(2) CONTENTS OF RESOLUTION.—For the
4 purpose of paragraph (1), ‘joint resolution’ means
5 only a joint resolution introduced after the date on
6 which the national strategy referred to in section
7 (b)(1) is received by Congress the matter after the
8 resolving clause of which is as follows: ‘That Con-
9 gress disapproves the National Veterans Strategy es-
10 tablished by the President as submitted to Congress
11 on _____ (the blank space being appro-
12 priately filled in).’.

13 “(3) REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE.—A resolution
14 described in paragraph (2) introduced in the House
15 of Representatives shall be referred to the Com-
16 mittee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Rep-
17 resentatives. A resolution described in paragraph (2)
18 introduced in the Senate shall be referred to the
19 Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate. Such
20 a resolution may not be reported before the 8th day
21 after its introduction.

22 “(4) DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE.—If the com-
23 mittee to which is referred a resolution described in
24 paragraph (2) has not reported such resolution (or
25 an identical resolution) at the end of 15 calendar

1 days after its introduction, such committee shall be
2 deemed to be discharged from further consideration
3 of such resolution and such resolution shall be
4 placed on the appropriate calendar of the House in-
5 volved.

6 “(5) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—When the committee
8 to which a resolution is referred has reported,
9 or has been deemed to be discharged (under
10 paragraph (4)) from further consideration of, a
11 resolution described in paragraph (2), it is at
12 any time thereafter in order (even though a
13 previous motion to the same effect has been dis-
14 agreed to) for any Member of the respective
15 House to move to proceed to the consideration
16 of the resolution, and all points of order against
17 the resolution (and against consideration of the
18 resolution) are waived. The motion is highly
19 privileged in the House of Representatives and
20 is privileged in the Senate and is not debatable.
21 The motion is not subject to amendment, or to
22 a motion to postpone, or to a motion to proceed
23 to the consideration of other business. A motion
24 to reconsider the vote by which the motion is
25 agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order.

1 If a motion to proceed to the consideration of
2 the resolution is agreed to, the resolution shall
3 remain the unfinished business of the respective
4 House until disposed of.

5 “(B) DEBATE.—Debate on the resolution,
6 and on all debatable motions and appeals in
7 connection therewith, shall be limited to not
8 more than 10 hours, which shall be divided
9 equally between those favoring and those oppos-
10 ing the resolution. A motion further to limit de-
11 bate is in order and not debatable. An amend-
12 ment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion
13 to proceed to the consideration of other busi-
14 ness, or a motion to recommit the resolution is
15 not in order. A motion to reconsider the vote by
16 which the resolution is agreed to or disagreed to
17 is not in order.

18 “(C) VOTE ON FINAL PASSAGE.—Imme-
19 diately following the conclusion of the debate on
20 a resolution described in paragraph (2), and a
21 single quorum call at the conclusion of the de-
22 bate if requested in accordance with the rules of
23 the appropriate House, the vote on final pas-
24 sage of the resolution shall occur.

1 “(D) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCE-
2 DURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair
3 relating to the application of the rules of the
4 Senate or the House of Representatives, as the
5 case may be, to the procedure relating to a res-
6 olution described in paragraph (2) shall be de-
7 cided without debate.

8 “(6) COORDINATION WITH ACTION BY OTHER
9 HOUSE.—If, before the passage by one House of a
10 resolution of that House described in paragraph (2),
11 that House receives from the other House a resolu-
12 tion described in paragraph (2), then the following
13 procedures shall apply:

14 “(A) The resolution of the other House
15 shall not be referred to a committee.

16 “(B) With respect to a resolution described
17 in paragraph (2) of the House receiving the res-
18 olution—

19 “(i) the procedure in that House shall
20 be the same as if no resolution had been
21 received from the other House; but

22 “(ii) the vote on final passage shall be
23 on the resolution of the other House.

1 “(7) RULES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2 AND SENATE.—This subsection is enacted by Con-
3 gress—

4 “(A) as an exercise of the rulemaking
5 power of the Senate and House of Representa-
6 tives, respectively, and as such it is deemed a
7 part of the rules of each House, respectively,
8 but applicable only with respect to the proce-
9 dure to be followed in that House in the case
10 of a resolution described in paragraph (2), and
11 it supersedes other rules only to the extent that
12 it is inconsistent with such rules; and

13 “(B) with full recognition of the constitu-
14 tional right of either House to change the rules
15 (so far as relating to the procedure of that
16 House) at any time, in the same manner, and
17 to the same extent as in the case of any other
18 rule of that House.

19 “(d) IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL VETERANS
20 STRATEGY.—

21 “(1) FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL, NONPROFIT,
22 AND PRIVATE SECTOR COORDINATION.—Except as
23 provided in subsection (c) and not before the date
24 that is 60 days after date on which the President
25 submits to Congress the Strategy under subsection

1 (b)(1), the President shall direct the heads of Fed-
2 eral agencies to coordinate with State and local gov-
3 ernments, nonprofit organizations, and the private
4 sector to implement the Strategy. Each head of a
5 Federal agency shall ensure that the agency aligns
6 its resources, services, and initiatives with the objec-
7 tives outlined in the Strategy.

8 “(2) INCORPORATION INTO AGENCY STRATEGIC
9 PLANS.—Each head of a Federal agency shall, as
10 applicable, incorporate the metrics established under
11 subsection (a)(1) and the Strategy into the strategic
12 plan of the agency required by section 306 of title
13 5.

14 “(3) ANNUAL REPORTING.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently
16 than once each year, the President shall submit
17 to Congress an annual report detailing the im-
18 plementation of the Strategy, including progress
19 toward achieving the goals of the Strategy in
20 the areas specified in subsection (a)(2).

21 “(B) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted
22 pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall include, for
23 the period covered by the report, the following:

24 “(i) A review of the performance
25 metrics developed under subsection (a)(1).

1 “(ii) An assessment of spending pur-
2 suant to the Strategy in each of the Fed-
3 eral, State, local, nonprofit, and private
4 sectors, how such spending aligned with
5 the objectives outlined in the Strategy, and
6 identification of effective programs and
7 best practices at the State and local levels
8 that could be replicated in other jurisdi-
9 ctions.

10 “(iii) Identification of barriers to suc-
11 cess in implementing the Strategy and rec-
12 ommendations for such legislative or ad-
13 ministrative action for the various jurisdi-
14 ctional levels observed as the President con-
15 siders appropriate to improve the well-
16 being of the population of veterans.

17 “(e) QUADRENNIAL REVIEWS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than
19 once every four years, the President shall—

20 “(A) review the national strategy formu-
21 lated under subsection (b)(1) and the metrics
22 established under subsection (a)(1); and

23 “(B) as the President consider necessary,
24 update such national strategy and metrics.

1 “(2) ELEMENTS.—Each review carried out
2 under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

3 “(A) Assessment of the effectiveness of ini-
4 tiatives carried out pursuant to the Strategy.

5 “(B) Identification of challenges encoun-
6 tered by the Federal Government in carrying
7 out the Strategy.

8 “(C) Recommendations for legislative or
9 administrative action to address the challenges
10 identified pursuant to subparagraph (B).

11 “(3) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—The President
12 shall ensure that each review under paragraph (1)
13 includes public input through public hearings, sur-
14 veys, or other such other methods as the President
15 considers appropriate to gather feedback from vet-
16 erans, families of veterans, and the general public.

17 “(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
18 tion shall be construed to authorize an officer or employee
19 of the Federal Government to carry out any program or
20 policy that is inconsistent with any other provision of Fed-
21 eral law, including the elimination or rescission of any pro-
22 gram, benefit, or service required by a provision of Federal
23 law.

24 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 “(1) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘Tribal
2 organization’ has the meaning given that term in
3 section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
4 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

5 “(2) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
6 ‘nonprofit organization’ means an organization de-
7 scribed in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue
8 Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under sec-
9 tion 501(a) of such Code.

10 “(3) VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION.—The
11 term ‘veterans service organization’ means an orga-
12 nization recognized by the Secretary for the rep-
13 resentation of veterans under section 5902 of this
14 title.”.

15 (b) INITIAL METRICS.—Not earlier than one year
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act and not later
17 than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act,
18 the President shall establish the metrics required by sec-
19 tion 120(a)(1) of such title, as added by subsection (a).

20 (c) INITIAL STRATEGY.—Not earlier than two years
21 after the date of the enactment of this Act and not later
22 than four years after the date of the enactment of this
23 Act, the President shall submit to Congress the first strat-
24 egy under section 120(b)(1) of such title, as added by sub-
25 section (a).

1 (d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
2 at the beginning of chapter 1 of such title is amended by
3 inserting after the item relating to section 119 the fol-
4 lowing new item:

“120. Defining veteran success and National Veterans Strategy.”.