

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the oversight of contracts awarded by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the oversight of contracts awarded by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans, 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 “Protecting Business
5 Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. LIMITATIONS ON SUBCONTRACTS UNDER CON-**
2 **TRACTS WITH SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS**
3 **OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY VETERANS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8127 of title 38, United
5 States Code, is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating subsection (k) as sub-
7 section (l); and

8 (2) by inserting after subsection (j) the fol-
9 lowing new subsection (k):

10 “(k) LIMITATIONS ON SUBCONTRACTING.—(1)(A)
11 The requirements applicable to a covered small business
12 concern under section 46 of the Small Business Act (15
13 U.S.C. 657s) shall apply with respect to a small business
14 concern owned and controlled by veterans that is awarded
15 a contract under this section.

16 “(B) For purposes of applying the requirements of
17 section 46 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657s)
18 pursuant to subparagraph (A), the term ‘similarly situated
19 entity’ used in such section 46 includes a subcontractor
20 for a small business concern owned and controlled by vet-
21 erans described in such subparagraph (A).

22 “(2)(A) The Secretary may award a contract under
23 this section only after the Secretary obtains from the of-
24 feror a certification that the offeror will comply with the
25 requirements described in paragraph (1)(A) if awarded
26 the contract.

1 “(B) A certification described in subparagraph (A)
2 shall—

3 “(i) specify the exact performance requirements
4 applicable under such paragraph; and

5 “(ii) explicitly acknowledge that the certification
6 is subject to section 1001 of title 18.

7 “(3)(A) The Director of Small and Disadvantaged
8 Business Utilization for the Department, established pur-
9 suant to section 15(k) of the Small Business Act (15
10 U.S.C. 644(k)), and the Chief Acquisition Officer of the
11 Department, established pursuant to section 1702 of title
12 41, shall jointly implement a process using the systems
13 described in section 16(g)(2) of the Small Business Act
14 (15 U.S.C. 645(g)(2)), and any other relevant systems
15 available, to monitor compliance with this subsection.

16 “(B) The Director of Small and Disadvantaged Busi-
17 ness Utilization and the Chief Acquisition Officer shall
18 jointly refer any violations or suspected violations of this
19 subsection to the Inspector General of the Department.

20 “(C) If the Secretary determines, in consultation with
21 the Inspector General of the Department, that a small
22 business concern that is awarded a contract under this
23 section did not act in good faith with respect to the re-
24 quirements described in paragraph (1)(A), the small busi-

1 ness concern shall be subject to any or all of the following
2 consequences—

3 “(i) referral to the Debarment and Suspension
4 Committee of the Department;

5 “(ii) a fine under section 16(g)(1) of the Small
6 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 645(g)(1)); and

7 “(iii) prosecution for violating section 1001 of
8 title 18.

9 “(D)(i) Not later than November 30 for each of fiscal
10 years 2020 through 2024, the Inspector General shall sub-
11 mit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate
12 and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of
13 Representatives a report on violations and suspected viola-
14 tions described in subparagraph (B) for the fiscal year
15 preceding the fiscal year during which the report is sub-
16 mitted.

17 “(ii) Each report submitted under clause (i) shall in-
18 clude, for the period covered by the report, the following:

19 “(I) The number of referred violations and sus-
20 pected violations received under subparagraph (B).

21 “(II) The disposition of such referred violations,
22 including the number of small business concerns sus-
23 pended or debarred from Federal contracting or re-
24 ferred to the Attorney General for prosecution.”.

1 (b) APPLICATION.—Subsection (k) of section 8127 of
2 title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a),
3 shall apply with respect to a contract entered into after
4 the date of the enactment of this Act.