

S 154

VA CLEAR Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jan 16, 2019

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (Jan 16, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/154>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]

Party: Democratic • **State:** MT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Jan 16, 2019
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Jan 16, 2019
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jan 16, 2019
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Jan 16, 2019
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Jan 16, 2019
Sen. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ]	D · AZ		Jan 16, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 16, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Department of Veterans Affairs Contract, Leadership, and Ensuring Accountability and Reform Act of 2019 or the VA CLEAR Act of 2019

This bill addresses oversight of financial processes of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and also requires implementation of systems for maintaining specified records.

Among other elements, the bill requires the VA to

- include specified elements in contracts it enters for services (e.g., measurable metrics to ascertain the performance of the provider of the service),
- submit a justification and plan for contracts for services that would incur an obligation of more than \$2 billion,
- contract with a third party to review and audit the VA's financial processes and provide recommendations for improvement, and
- submit a justification for requests for supplemental appropriations.

Additionally, the Inspector General of the VA and the Government Accountability Office must complete a review of a contract for services that would result in the VA incurring an obligation of more than \$2 billion.

The bill authorizes the Inspector General of the VA, in the performance of the functions assigned to such office, to subpoena the attendance and testimony of witnesses.

Finally, the bill requires the VA to implement a centralized system to maintain and record completed reviews of administrative investigation boards, and the Veterans Health Administration must implement a centralized system for tracking instances where the VA has referred a clinician to a state's licensing board because of behavior or clinical outcomes.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 16, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 16, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.