

S 221

Department of Veterans Affairs Provider Accountability Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jan 24, 2019

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Jan 14, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/221>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Gardner, Cory [R-CO]

Party: Republican • **State:** CO • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (5 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|-------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA] | R · LA | | Jan 24, 2019 |
| Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME] | R · ME | | Jan 24, 2019 |
| Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV] | D · WV | | Jan 24, 2019 |
| Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS] | R · KS | | Jan 24, 2019 |
| Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT] | R · MT | | Dec 18, 2019 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------|--------------|
| Veterans' Affairs Committee | Senate | Discharged From | Dec 20, 2019 |
| Veterans' Affairs Committee | House | Referred to | Jan 14, 2020 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Department of Veterans Affairs Provider Accountability Act

The bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to transmit specified information to the National Practitioner Data Bank and the applicable state licensing board when the VA brings a covered major adverse action against certain appointed VA medical employees. A *covered major adverse action* is an action originating from circumstances in which the behavior of the employee so substantially failed to meet clinical practice standards that it raised reasonable concern for the safety of patients.

The bill requires the VA to transmit the employee's name and the description of and reason for the covered major adverse action. The VA must also update its credentialing system with a record of covered major adverse actions taken and an indication that information was transmitted as required.

The VA shall enroll certain appointed VA medical employees into a continuous query of their record within the National Practitioner Data Bank and shall implement a mechanism for maintaining and updating the information collected through such query to facilitate the sharing of information between Veterans Integrated Service Networks.

The VA may not enter into a settlement agreement relating to an adverse action by certain appointed VA medical employees under which it would be required to conceal a serious medical error or lapse in generally accepted standards of clinical practice. Such provision shall not apply to a negative record if the VA Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection and the Office of Special Counsel jointly certify that the negative record is not legitimate.

The bill requires the VA to provide mandatory training to all health staff who handle hiring, privileging, and credentialing, regarding all policies of the VA on credentialing, privileging, and when and how to report adverse actions to the relevant entities.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 14, 2020:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Dec 23, 2019:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 23, 2019:** Received in the House.
- **Dec 23, 2019:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
- **Dec 19, 2019:** Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs discharged by Unanimous Consent.
- **Dec 19, 2019:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S7229-7230)
- **Dec 19, 2019:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **Dec 19, 2019:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **May 22, 2019:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held.
- **Jan 24, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 24, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.