

S 2283

REACH for Veterans Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jun 24, 2021

Current Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held.

Latest Action: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. (Oct 20, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2283>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (8 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]	R · KS		Jun 24, 2021
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Oct 25, 2021
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Nov 15, 2021
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Nov 15, 2021
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Dec 6, 2021
Sen. Ossoff, Jon [D-GA]	D · GA		Dec 14, 2021
Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM]	D · NM		Dec 15, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	Oct 20, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 5073	Identical bill	Oct 14, 2021: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

Revising and Expediting Actions for the Crisis Hotline for Veterans Act or the REACH for Veterans Act

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to update training and procedures for call responders of the Veterans Crisis Line.

Specifically, the VA must enter into an agreement with an outside organization to review the training for crisis line call responders. The VA must update the training if any deficiencies are identified after the review.

Among other requirements, the VA must

- develop guidelines on retraining and quality management for when a call responder has an adverse event or needs improvement,
- annually perform a common cause analysis for identified callers to the crisis line who died by suicide in situations where the crisis line was the last point of contact,
- develop enhanced guidance and procedures to respond to calls to the crisis line related to substance use and overdose risk,
- review the current emergency dispatch standard operating procedure of the crisis line, and
- solicit feedback from veterans service organizations on how to conduct outreach regarding the move to 988 as the new suicide and mental health crisis hotline.

Each call responder must be subject to at least two calls per month that are silently monitored by a supervisor to check for quality of conduct.

The Veterans Crisis Line, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention of the VA, and National Center for Patient Safety of the VA must establish quality management processes and expectations for staff of the crisis line.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 20, 2021:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held.
- **Jun 24, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 24, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.