

S 3163

RURAL Exams Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Nov 4, 2021

Current Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.

Latest Action: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably. (Dec 15, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/3163>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]	R · KS		Nov 4, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Markup By	Dec 15, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Reform and Update Rural Access to Local Exams Act of 2021 or the RURAL Exams Act of 2021

This bill updates policies and procedures related to covered medical disability examinations provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and its contractors. Under the bill, covered medical disability examinations are those that are required for purposes of adjudicating specified VA benefits.

First, the bill requires the VA to begin collecting data to improve veterans' access to covered medical disability examinations.

The VA must study rural veterans' access to covered medical disability examinations and submit a plan to improve access.

Additionally, the VA must ensure that contracts for the provision of covered medical disability examinations by contractors include specified elements. Specifically, such contracts must (1) include financial incentives to encourage timeliness in medical disability examination appointments for rural or housebound veterans, (2) include financial disincentives to encourage timeliness, and (3) require contractors to cooperate with inspections.

Finally, the VA must establish a program of periodic inspections of sites, locations, and facilities where medical disability examinations are provided by VA contractors.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 15, 2021:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Nov 17, 2021:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held.
- **Nov 4, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Nov 4, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.