

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1266

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## AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with nonprofit organizations to investigate medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Enhancing Veteran  
3 Care Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. INVESTIGATION OF MEDICAL CENTERS OF THE DE-**  
5 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

6       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
7 may contract with a nonprofit organization that accredits  
8 health care organizations and programs in the United  
9 States to investigate a medical center of the Department  
10 of Veterans Affairs to assess and report deficiencies of the  
11 facilities at such medical center.

12       (b) AUTHORITY OF DIRECTORS.—

13           (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to coordination  
14 under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall delegate  
15 the authority under subsection (a) to contract for an  
16 investigation at a medical center of the Department  
17 to the Director of the Veterans Integrated Service  
18 Network in which the medical center is located or  
19 the director of such medical center.

20           (2) COORDINATION.—Before entering into a  
21 contract under paragraph (1), the Director of a Vet-  
22 erans Integrated Service Network or the director of  
23 a medical center, as the case may be, shall notify the  
24 Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Inspector General  
25 of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the  
26 Comptroller General of the United States for pur-

1 poses of coordinating any investigation conducted  
2 pursuant to such contract with any other investiga-  
3 tions that may be ongoing.

4 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
5 tion may be construed—

6 (1) to prevent the Office of the Inspector Gen-  
7 eral of the Department of Veterans Affairs from  
8 conducting any review, audit, evaluation, or inspec-  
9 tion regarding a topic for which an investigation is  
10 conducted under this section; or

11 (2) to modify the requirement that employees of  
12 the Department assist with any review, audit, eval-  
13 uation, or inspection conducted by the Office of the  
14 Inspector General of the Department.

Passed the Senate November 9, 2017.

Attest:

*Secretary.*

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