

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 645

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the inspection of kitchens and food service areas at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that the same standards for kitchens and food service areas at hospitals in the private sector are being met at kitchens and food service areas at medical facilities of the Department.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 24, 2017

Mr. BOST (for himself, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Ms. GABBARD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the inspection of kitchens and food service areas at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that the same standards for kitchens and food service areas at hospitals in the private sector are being met at kitchens and food service areas at medical facilities of the Department.

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 “Requiring Account-
3 ability and Inspections for Dining Service Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. INSPECTION OF KITCHENS AND FOOD SERVICE**
5 **AREAS AT MEDICAL FACILITIES OF THE DE-**
6 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently
9 than annually thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Af-
10 fairs shall provide for the conduct of inspections of kitch-
11 ens and food service areas at each medical facility of the
12 Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that the same
13 standards for kitchens and food service areas at hospitals
14 in the private sector are being met at kitchens and food
15 service areas at medical facilities of the Department.

16 (b) AGREEMENT.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall seek to
18 enter into an agreement with the Joint Commission
19 on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations under
20 which the Joint Commission on Accreditation of
21 Hospital Organizations conducts the inspections re-
22 quired under subsection (a).

23 (2) ALTERNATE ORGANIZATION.—If the Sec-
24 retary is unable to enter into an agreement de-
25 scribed in paragraph (1) with the Joint Commission
26 on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations on terms

1 acceptable to the Secretary, the Secretary shall seek
2 to enter into such an agreement with another appro-
3 priate organization that—

4 (A) is not part of the Federal Government;

5 (B) operates as a not-for-profit entity; and

6 (C) has expertise and objectivity com-
7 parable to that of the Joint Commission on Ac-
8 creditation of Hospital Organizations.

9 (c) REMEDIATION PLAN.—

10 (1) INITIAL FAILURE.—If a kitchen or food
11 service area of a medical facility of the Department
12 is determined pursuant to an inspection conducted
13 under subsection (a) not to meet the standards for
14 kitchens and food service areas in hospitals in the
15 private sector, that medical facility fails the inspec-
16 tion and the Secretary shall—

17 (A) implement a remediation plan for that
18 medical facility within 48 hours; and

19 (B) conduct a second inspection under sub-
20 section (a) at that medical facility within 7 days
21 of the failed inspection.

22 (2) SECOND FAILURE.—If a medical facility of
23 the Department fails the second inspection con-
24 ducted under paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall
25 close the kitchen or food service area at that medical

1 facility that did not meet the standards for kitchens
2 and food service areas in hospitals in the private sec-
3 tor until remediation is completed and all kitchens
4 and food service areas at that medical facility meet
5 such standards.

6 (3) PROVISION OF FOOD.—If a kitchen or food
7 service area is closed at a medical facility of the De-
8 partment pursuant to paragraph (2), the Director of
9 the Veterans Integrated Service Network in which
10 the medical facility is located shall enter into a con-
11 tract with a vendor approved by the General Serv-
12 ices Administration to provide food at the medical
13 facility.

14 (d) REPORTS.—

15 (1) QUARTERLY.—Not less frequently than
16 quarterly, the Director of each Veterans Integrated
17 Service Network shall submit to Congress a report
18 on inspections conducted under this section during
19 that quarter at medical facilities of the Department
20 under the jurisdiction of that Director.

21 (2) SUBSEQUENT PERIOD.—A Director of a
22 Veterans Integrated Service Network may submit to
23 Congress the report described in paragraph (1) not
24 less frequently than semiannually if the Director

- 1 does not report any failed inspections for the one-
- 2 year period preceding the submittal of the report.

○