

VHA INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNIZATION

PL 115-182, the VA MISSION Act of 2018



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Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR)

- Establishes an **Asset and Infrastructure and Review (AIR)** process to develop a long term plan to modernize and realign VA hospitals, clinics and other health care facilities to improve veterans access to VA care.
- Begins with a capacity/demand assessment by VA, then facility recommendations by VA, a review by an independent Commission, another review by the President and finally a review by Congress.
- The law guarantees that veterans and VSOs will be full participants throughout the AIR process --
 - ❖ **Mandates that Major VSOs Hold 3 of 9 Commission Seats**

Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR)

- Final version of legislation is significantly different from original bill, which had been similar to BRAC
 - VSOs demanded and got more than 2 dozen changes to law:
 - ❖ Requires 3 Seats on Commission go to Major VSOs
 - ❖ Requires VA to Consult with VSOs before making recommendations
 - ❖ Requires all documents and data to be publicly available for review
 - ❖ Requires public hearings if facilities are to be downsized or closed
 - ❖ Extended timeline by 3 years to allow integrated networks to form
 - ❖ Requires that VA request funding to complete all modernizations



Time Line for Title II of the VA MISSION Act

ESTABLISHING THE COMMISSION AND CRITERIA: 2018 - 2021

2018: The *VA MISSION Act* becomes law, including Title II - the *VA Asset and Infrastructure Review Act*.

January 3, 2019: The 116th Congress begins.

January 3, 2021: The 117th Congress begins, following 2020 Presidential election.

February 1, 2021: The VA submits a draft of criteria to be used in making recommendations regarding the modernization of VA medical facilities for a 90-day public comment period. Criteria will be drafted in consultation with VSO's.

By May 31, 2021: After consultation with Congress, the President nominates nine Commissioners to be confirmed by the Senate.

May 31, 2021: The VA publishes the final criteria for making recommendations regarding the modernization of VA medical facilities.

COMMISSION REVIEWS AND REPORTS ON THE VA'S RECOMMENDATIONS: 2022-2023

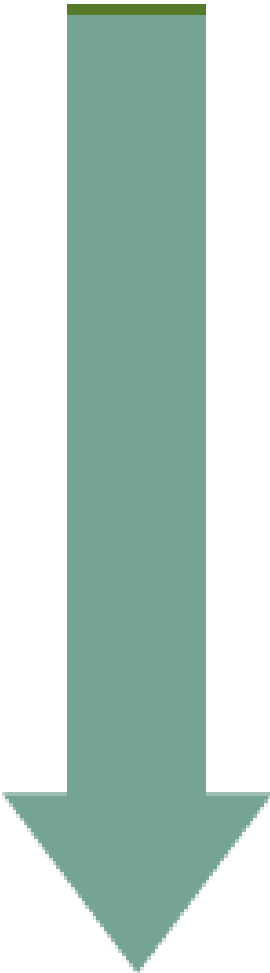
January 31, 2022: After consultation with VSOs, the VA reports to Congress, the Commission, and the public with its recommendations.

2022 - 2023: The Commission meets to ensure the VA's recommendations substantially comply with the criteria finalized May 31, 2021, examines the recommendations, and holds public hearings. During this time, the Commission can modify the VA's recommendations.

January 3, 2023: The 118th Congress begins.

January 31, 2023: The Commission reports on the VA's recommendations to the President and Congress.

February 15, 2023: The President informs the Commission and Congress of whether he/she approves or disapproves of the Commission's report on the VA's recommendations.



IMPLEMENTATION OR TERMINATION: 2023 AND BEYOND

March 1, 2023: If disapproved, the President must explain decision to Congress and the Commission. The Commission has 15 days to review and respond.

March 30, 2023: Deadline for the President to approve the Commission's recommendations. If this deadline is not met, the asset review process terminates.

45 Days after the President approves recommendations: Congress may enact a joint resolution of disapproval, terminating the asset review process.

January 3, 2025: The 119th Congress begins, following 2024 Presidential election.

No later than March 2026: The VA begins implementing the Commission's recommendations, subject to available appropriations, after providing detailed information in its budget submission regarding actions to be taken.