

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN MIKE BOST

VA Acquisition & Cost Assessment Reforms

Background:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) manages one of the largest acquisition portfolios in the federal government, yet its acquisition functions have historically been fragmented across administrations, lacked unified leadership, and operated without standardized professional certification requirements or consistent cost evaluation.

The Acquisition Reform and Cost Assessment Act of 2025 would establish a modern, centralized acquisition enterprise; professionalize major acquisition program management; mandate independent verification and validation; and create an independent cost assessment and program evaluation capability within VA.

The Message:

ARCA would strengthen acquisition discipline, centralize oversight, impose professional standards, and establish independent cost and performance analysis across all major VA acquisition programs.

This bill would:

- Create an Assistant Secretary for Acquisition to serve as VA's Chief Acquisition Officer, responsible for all acquisition functions.
- Establish a unified Office of Acquisition overseeing major acquisition programs, procurement, logistics, and lifecycle management.
- Consolidate all acquisition, procurement, contracting, logistics, and supply chain functions under a single leadership structure.
- Establish Program Executive Officers (PEOs) for medical systems, IT systems, professional services, and other acquisition portfolios.
- Mandate independent verification and validation (IV&V) at program initiation, completion, and other key milestones.
- Establish a Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation (CAPE) to perform independent cost estimates, program evaluations, and annual reporting.
- Standardize requirements development across major acquisition programs and require iterative validation using objective data and stakeholder input.
- Expand VA's acquisition workforce pipeline through strengthened internships and targeted hiring authorities.
- Require an external systems engineering analysis of VA's acquisition system through the DoD Acquisition Research Center.