

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7335

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 19 (legislative day, MAY 17), 2022

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT

To improve coordination between the Veterans Health Administration and the Veterans Benefits Administration with respect to claims for compensation arising from military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

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 “MST Claims Coordina-
3 tion Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION AND VET-**
5 **ERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION COORDI-**
6 **NATION FOR CERTAIN CLAIMS ARISING**
7 **FROM MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.**

8 (a) COORDINATED PROVISION OF MATERIALS.—

9 (1) REQUIRED MATERIALS.—During or imme-
10 diately after each covered event, and together with
11 each covered document, in a claim for compensation
12 arising from military sexual trauma experienced by
13 a covered individual, the Under Secretary for Bene-
14 fits of the Veterans Benefits Administration, in co-
15 ordination with the Under Secretary for Health of
16 the Veterans Health Administration, shall provide,
17 to the covered individual—

18 (A) outreach letters;

19 (B) information on the Veterans Crisis
20 Line;

21 (C) information on how to make an ap-
22 pointment with a mental health provider; and

23 (D) other information on available re-
24 sources relating to military sexual trauma (in-
25 cluding information on military sexual trauma
26 coordinators of the Veterans Health Adminis-

1 tration, mental health providers trained in mili-
2 tary sexual trauma issues, and peer support
3 specialists).

4 (2) FORMAT OF MATERIALS.—Materials de-
5 scribed in paragraph (1) may be provided electroni-
6 cally.

7 (b) AUTOMATIC NOTIFICATION SYSTEM.—In a claim
8 for compensation arising from military sexual trauma ex-
9 perienced by a veteran, if the veteran is enrolled in the
10 patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans
11 Affairs under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code,
12 and consents to the notification system under this sub-
13 section, the Under Secretary for Benefits shall automati-
14 cally notify the Under Secretary for Health shortly before
15 the veteran—

16 (1) participates in any covered event; or

17 (2) receives any covered document.

18 (c) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—The Secretary of
19 Veterans Affairs shall implement this Act not later than
20 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

21 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) The term “compensation” has the meaning
23 given that term in section 101 of title 38, United
24 States Code.

1 (2) The term “covered document” means a de-
2 termination (including a rating determination) that
3 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs provides to the
4 claimant in connection with a claim for compensa-
5 tion.

6 (3) The term “covered event” includes, with re-
7 spect to a claim for compensation—

8 (A) a medical examination under section
9 5103A of title 38, United States Code;

10 (B) a hearing before the Board of Vet-
11 erans’ Appeals under section 7107 of such title;
12 and

13 (C) any other event determined relevant by
14 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

15 (4) The term “covered individual” means a
16 former member of the Armed Forces (as that term
17 is defined in section 1720D of title 38, United
18 States Code) who elects to receive materials under
19 subsection (a).

20 (5) The term “military sexual trauma” has the
21 meaning given that term in section 1166 of title 38,
22 United States Code.

1 (6) The term “Veterans Crisis Line” means the
2 toll-free hotline for veterans established under sec-
3 tion 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code.

Passed the House of Representatives May 18, 2022.

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.