

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1039

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## AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center for an assessment of notice letters that the Secretary sends to claimants for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, 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,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Clear Communication  
5       for Veterans Claims Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF NOTICES THAT THE**  
7                       **SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SENDS**  
8                       **TO CLAIMANTS.**

9       (a) AGREEMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the  
10      date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-  
11      erans Affairs shall seek to enter into an agreement with  
12      an FFRDC for an assessment of notices that the Sec-  
13      retary sends to claimants.

14      (b) ASSESSMENT.—An FFRDC that enters to an  
15      agreement under subsection (a) shall submit to the Sec-  
16      retary a written assessment of such notices. The assess-  
17      ment shall include the following:

18               (1) The determination of the FFRDC, made in  
19               consultation with covered entities, whether each such  
20               notice may be feasibly altered to reduce paper con-  
21               sumption by, and costs to, the Federal Government.

22               (2) The recommendations of the FFRDC re-  
23               garding how the Secretary may make such notices  
24               clearer to claimants, better organized, and more con-  
25               cise.

1 (c) REPORT; IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 90  
2 days after the Secretary receives the assessment under  
3 subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

4 (1) submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Af-  
5 fairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a  
6 copy of such assessment; and

7 (2) implement the recommendations in the as-  
8 sessment that are in compliance with the laws ad-  
9 ministered by the Secretary.

10 (d) DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—The Sec-  
11 retary shall complete the implementation of such rec-  
12 ommendations pursuant to subsection (c)(2) by not later  
13 than one year after the date on which the Secretary com-  
14 mences such implementation.

15 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) The term “FFRDC” means a federally  
17 funded research and development center.

18 (2) The term “covered entities” includes—

19 (A) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

20 (B) an expert in laws administered by the  
21 Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

22 (C) a veterans service organization recog-  
23 nized under section 5902 of title 38, United  
24 States Code;

1 (D) an entity that advocates for veterans;  
2 and

3 (E) an entity that advocates for the sur-  
4 vivors of veterans.

5 (3) The terms “claimant” and “notice” have  
6 the meanings given such terms in section 5100 of  
7 title 38, United States Code.

8 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF**  
9 **PENSION.**

10 Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code,  
11 is amended by striking “November 30, 2031” and insert-  
12 ing “December 31, 2031”.

Passed the House of Representatives April 7, 2025.

Attest:

*Clerk.*



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