

Union Calendar No. 73

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1286

[Report No. 119–100]

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 forms that the Secretary sends to claimants for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2025

Mr. BRESNAHAN (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. BOST, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. HARDER of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

MAY 17, 2025

Additional sponsors: Mr. MEUSER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. PFLUGER, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. ISSA, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, and Mrs. FISCHBACH

MAY 17, 2025

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on February 13, 2025]

A BILL

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 forms 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 “Simplifying Forms for*
 5 *Veterans Claims Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF FORMS 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 Veterans*
 11 *Affairs shall seek to enter into an agreement with an*
 12 *FFRDC for an assessment of forms that the Secretary sends*
 13 *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, made in consultation with cov-*
 17 *ered entities, of such forms. The assessment shall include*
 18 *the recommendations of the FFRDC regarding how the Sec-*
 19 *retary may make such forms clearer to claimants and better*
 20 *organized.*

21 (c) *REPORT; IMPLEMENTATION.*—*Not later than 90*
 22 *days after the Secretary receives the assessment under sub-*
 23 *section (b), the Secretary shall—*

1 (1) *submit to the Committees on Veterans' Af-*
2 *fairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a*
3 *copy of such assessment; and*

4 (2) *implement the recommendations in the as-*
5 *essment that are in compliance with the laws admin-*
6 *istered by the Secretary.*

7 (d) *DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary*
8 *shall complete the implementation of such recommendations*
9 *pursuant to subsection (c)(2) by not later than two years*
10 *after the date on which the Secretary commences such im-*
11 *plementation.*

12 (e) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

13 (1) *The term “FFRDC” means a federally fund-*
14 *ed research and development center.*

15 (2) *The term “covered entities” includes—*

16 (A) *the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;*

17 (B) *an expert in laws administered by the*
18 *Secretary of Veterans Affairs;*

19 (C) *a veterans service organization recog-*
20 *nized under section 5902 of title 38, United*
21 *States Code;*

22 (D) *an entity that advocates for veterans;*
23 *and*

24 (E) *an entity that advocates for survivors of*
25 *veterans.*

1 (3) *The term “claimant” has the meaning given*
2 *such term in section 5100 of title 38, United States*
3 *Code.*

4 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF**
5 **PENSION.**

6 *Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is*
7 *amended by striking “November 30, 2031” and inserting*
8 *“December 31, 2031”.*

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