

Union Calendar No. 75

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1578

[Report No. 119–102]

To amend title 38, United States Code, to promote assistance from persons recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for individuals who file certain claims under laws administered by the Secretary.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2025

Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. OBERNOLTE, and Mr. DELUZIO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

MAY 19, 2025

Additional sponsors: Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. MIN

MAY 19, 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 *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on February 25, 2025]

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to promote assistance from persons recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for individuals who file certain claims under laws administered by the Secretary.

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 “Veterans Claims Edu-*
 5 *cation Act of 2025”.*

6 **SEC. 2. PROMOTION OF ASSISTANCE FROM PERSONS REC-**
 7 **OGNIZED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS**
 8 **AFFAIRS FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO FILE CER-**
 9 **TAIN CLAIMS UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED**
 10 **BY THE SECRETARY.**

11 *(a) NOTICE TO CLAIMANTS OF AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE*
 12 *FROM RECOGNIZED PERSONS.—Section 5103A of title 38,*
 13 *United States Code, is amended—*

14 *(1) by redesignating subsections (g) through (i)*
 15 *as subsections (i) through (k), respectively;*

16 *(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following*
 17 *new subsections:*

18 *“(g) Upon receipt of an initial claim by a claimant*
 19 *not represented by an accredited person, the Secretary shall*
 20 *provide notice to the claimant that—*

21 *“(1) an accredited person may be able to rep-*
 22 *resent the claimant;*

23 *“(2) a veterans service organization recognized*
 24 *under section 5902 of this title may represent the*
 25 *claimant at no charge to the claimant;*

1 “(3) provides the web address of the online tool
2 maintained under subsection (h); and

3 “(4) provides the web address of an appropriate
4 and publicly accessible website of the Department
5 through which a claimant may report—

6 “(A) a person, who is not an accredited per-
7 son, who represented the claimant; and

8 “(B) any fee charged by such person for
9 such representation.

10 “(h)(1) The Secretary shall maintain an online tool
11 that allows a claimant to search a list of accredited persons
12 who represent claimants.

13 “(2) The Secretary shall ensure that such list is cur-
14 rent at least once each calendar quarter.

15 “(3) The Secretary shall ensure that such tool is easily
16 accessible to a claimant.”; and

17 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
18 section:

19 “(l) In this section:

20 “(1) The term ‘accredited person’ means—

21 “(A) a veterans service organization recog-
22 nized under section 5902 of this title; or

23 “(B) an attorney, agent, or other person
24 recognized under section 5904 of this title.

1 “(2) The term ‘represent’ means to prepare,
2 present, or prosecute a claim under a law adminis-
3 tered by the Secretary on behalf of a claimant.”.

4 (b) *ONLINE INFORMATION REGARDING PERSONS THAT*
5 *ASSIST CLAIMANTS.*—*The Secretary of Veterans Affairs*
6 *shall include, in each web portal of the Department of Vet-*
7 *erans Affairs, through which an individual may file a claim*
8 *for a benefit administered by the Under Secretary for Bene-*
9 *fits or the Under Secretary for Health, a warning regarding*
10 *fees an agent or attorney may charge such individual for*
11 *assistance in filing such claim. Such warning shall include*
12 *the following:*

13 (1) *A link to the online tool maintained under*
14 *subsection (h) of section 5103A of such title, as*
15 *amended by subsection (a).*

16 (2) *A link to the website of the Department de-*
17 *scribed in subparagraph (D) of section 5103A(f)(1) of*
18 *such title, as amended by subsection (a).*

19 (c) *REPORT.*—*Not later than 180 days after the date*
20 *of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—*

21 (1) *complete a review the regulations, processes,*
22 *and procedures of the Department of Veterans Affairs*
23 *that pertain to recognition under section 5904 of title*
24 *38, United States Code;*

1 (2) *develop recommendations for legislative or*
2 *administrative action to improve such regulations,*
3 *processes, and procedures; and*

4 (3) *submit to the Committees on Veterans' Af-*
5 *fairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a re-*
6 *port containing the findings of the Secretary with re-*
7 *spect to the review completed under paragraph (1)*
8 *and the recommendations developed under paragraph*
9 *(2).*

10 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF**
11 **PENSION.**

12 *Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is*
13 *amended by striking “November 30, 2031” and inserting*
14 *“March 31, 2032”.*

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