

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6017

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to issue to a veteran a Veterans Bill of Rights, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 10, 2025

Mr. VAN DREW (for himself and Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to issue to a veteran a Veterans Bill of Rights, 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 “Veterans Bill of Rights
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 63 of
8 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
9 end the following new section (and the table of sections
10 at the beginning of such chapter is amended accordingly):

1 **“§ 6321. Veterans Bill of Rights**

2 “(a) PROVISION; PUBLICATION.—(1) The Secretary
3 shall provide to each veteran a physical copy and an elec-
4 tronic copy of the Veterans Bill of Rights described in sub-
5 section (c).

6 “(2) The Secretary shall publish and maintain, on a
7 publicly accessible website of the Department, an elec-
8 tronic copy of such Veterans Bill of Rights.

9 “(3) The Secretary shall keep a copy of the most re-
10 cent version of such Veterans Bill of Rights in each facility
11 of the Department.

12 “(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
13 tion shall be construed to create any right or benefit, sub-
14 stantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by
15 any party against the United States, the Department, or
16 any officer or employee thereof.

17 “(c) VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS DESCRIBED.—The
18 Veterans Bill of Rights described in this subsection shall
19 inform a veteran of rights and benefits to which the vet-
20 eran may be entitled under laws administered by the Sec-
21 retary. Such rights and benefits include the following:

22 “(1) Veterans have the right to fair treatment.
23 Veterans shall be treated equally and with respect,
24 regardless of rank, position, or any protected class,
25 in every interaction with the Department of Vet-
26 erans Affairs (VA) and affiliated service providers.

1 “(2) Veterans have the right to be informed of
2 all eligible programs and benefits upon discharge, in-
3 cluding healthcare options with non-VA providers.

4 “(A) Upon discharge, the VA shall provide
5 each veteran with a comprehensive handbook
6 detailing all eligible benefits and programs, in-
7 cluding access to Community Care when VA
8 healthcare is not available within reasonable
9 timeframes or distances.

10 “(B) This information shall be accessible
11 in print and online, updated annually, and cover
12 healthcare, disability, education, and housing
13 benefits.

14 “(3) Veterans have the right to privacy.

15 “(A) Veterans’ personal information and
16 records shall be strictly protected.

17 “(B) The VA must adhere to the highest
18 standards of data privacy and clearly inform
19 veterans about how their data is used, shared,
20 and protected.

21 “(C) Veterans shall have assurance that all
22 their interactions and records with the VA are
23 handled confidentially and securely.

24 “(4) Veterans have the right to access quality
25 healthcare.

1 “(A) Veterans shall have timely access to
2 high-quality healthcare through VA facilities or
3 Community Care providers when necessary.

4 “(B) This includes access to physical and
5 mental health services tailored to veterans’
6 unique needs, ensuring they receive the best
7 possible care regardless of location or cir-
8 cumstance.

9 “(5) Veterans have the right to mental health
10 and family support services.

11 “(A) In recognition of the unique psycho-
12 logical impacts of military service, veterans
13 shall have access to tailored mental health re-
14 sources, including therapy, counseling, and
15 group support, both in-person and via tele-
16 health.

17 “(B) Additionally, support services for vet-
18 erans’ families shall be available to foster sta-
19 bility and wellness within the family unit, espe-
20 cially for those experiencing post-service chal-
21 lenges.

22 “(6) Veterans have the right to employment
23 and housing assistance.

24 “(A) Veterans transitioning to civilian life
25 shall have access to robust employment services,

1 including job training, career counseling, and
2 resume workshops.

3 “(B) The VA shall also provide resources
4 for housing stability, such as assistance in se-
5 curing affordable housing and support for
6 homelessness prevention for veterans in need.

7 “(7) Veterans have the right to accessibility in
8 services and facilities.

9 “(A) Veterans shall access VA services
10 without physical, geographical, or logistical bar-
11 riers, with reasonable accommodations provided
12 for disabilities.

13 “(B) The VA shall also expand telehealth
14 options and partnerships with local providers,
15 particularly to serve veterans in remote or un-
16 derserved areas, ensuring equitable service ac-
17 cess.

18 “(8) Veterans have the right to involvement in
19 decisions affecting their care and benefits.

20 “(A) Veterans shall be included in deci-
21 sions about their care plans, treatment options,
22 and benefits.

23 “(B) The VA shall involve veterans in dis-
24 cussions about their treatment and benefits eli-
25 gibility, ensuring that veterans’ preferences and

1 needs are considered and respected in every de-
2 cision.

3 “(9) Veterans have the right to transparency in
4 benefits adjudication.

5 “(A) Veterans shall be provided with a
6 transparent process for adjudicating claims, in-
7 cluding clear information on application re-
8 quirements, expected timelines, and necessary
9 documentation.

10 “(B) The VA shall issue written decisions
11 on claims within a specified timeframe, includ-
12 ing explanations for any denials and informa-
13 tion on appeal options.

14 “(10) Veterans have the right to a fair and
15 timely appeals process.

16 “(A) Veterans may appeal denied claims
17 through a fair and efficient process, receiving
18 guidance from the VA on each step.

19 “(B) The VA shall aim, to the extent prac-
20 ticable, to resolve appeals within 120 days of
21 filing, with progress updates provided through-
22 out the process to ensure veterans are informed
23 of the status of their cases.

24 “(11) Veterans have the right to consistent and
25 proactive communication.

1 “(A) The VA shall proactively commu-
2 nicate with veterans regarding any updates or
3 changes to their benefits and eligibility.

4 “(B) Veterans should receive timely infor-
5 mation about new or modified services they
6 qualify for, ensuring they have a clear under-
7 standing of all available resources throughout
8 their lives.

9 “(d) HOTLINE AND PORTAL.—(1) The Secretary
10 shall maintain a toll-free hotline and a publicly accessible
11 website of the Department through which a veteran may
12 report a complaint regarding compliance by the Secretary
13 with this section.

14 “(2) The Secretary shall respond to a veteran not
15 later than 30 days after the Secretary receives such a com-
16 plaint.

17 “(e) REPORTING.—Not less than once each year, the
18 Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Af-
19 fairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a
20 report regarding compliance of the Secretary with this sec-
21 tion. Each such report shall include the following elements
22 with regards to the year preceding the date of such report:

23 “(1) The total number of complaints pursuant
24 to subsection (c), disaggregated by—

1 “(A) category of issue (such as access to
2 care, claims processing, appeals, communica-
3 tion, privacy, or other); and

4 “(B) facility of the Department;

5 “(2) The median and average response times
6 for complaints.

7 “(3) The percentage of complaints resolved
8 within 30 days.

9 “(4) The number of corrective actions taken or
10 policy changes made by the Secretary as a result of
11 complaints or identified noncompliance.

12 “(5) Data on average and median processing
13 times for benefit claims and appeals, compared to
14 the target timelines under subsection (c).

15 “(6) The number of veterans provided informa-
16 tion or referrals for community care.

17 “(7) Recommendations of the Secretary for leg-
18 islative or administrative action to further the pur-
19 poses of this section.”.

20 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall carry
21 out section 6321 of such title, as added by this section,
22 not later than six months after the date of the enactment
23 of this Act.

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