

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1311

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 5 (legislative day, APRIL 4), 2025

Mr. BANKS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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 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 of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF NOTICES THAT THE**
2 **SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SENDS**
3 **TO CLAIMANTS.**

4 (a) AGREEMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
6 erans Affairs shall seek to enter into an agreement with
7 a federally funded research and development center
8 (FFRDC) for an assessment of notices that the Secretary
9 sends to claimants.

10 (b) ASSESSMENT.—A federally funded research and
11 development center that enters to an agreement under
12 subsection (a) shall submit to the Secretary a written as-
13 sessment of such notices. The assessment shall include the
14 following:

15 (1) The determination of the federally funded
16 research and development center, made in consulta-
17 tion with covered entities, whether each such notice
18 may be feasibly altered to reduce paper consumption
19 by, and costs to, the Federal Government.

20 (2) The recommendations of the federally fund-
21 ed research and development center regarding how
22 the Secretary may make such notices clearer to
23 claimants, better organized, and more concise.

24 (c) REPORT; IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 90
25 days after the Secretary receives the assessment under
26 subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

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

5 (2) commence implementing the recommenda-
6 tions in the assessment that are in compliance with
7 the laws administered by the Secretary.

8 (d) DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—The Sec-
9 retary shall complete the implementation required by sub-
10 section (c)(2) by not later than one year after the date
11 on which the Secretary commences such implementation.

12 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) COVERED ENTITIES.—The term “covered
14 entities” includes—

15 (A) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

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

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

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

23 (E) an entity that advocates for the sur-
24 vivors of veterans.

1 (2) CLAIMANT AND NOTICE.—The terms
2 “claimant” and “notice” have the meanings given
3 such terms in section 5100 of title 38, United States
4 Code.

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