

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2055

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of eligible veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 12, 2025

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

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of eligible veterans, 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’ Caregiver
5 Appeals Modernization Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF**
2 **VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR COMPREHENSIVE**
3 **ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS OF**
4 **ELIGIBLE VETERANS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1720G of title 38, United
6 States Code, is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)(4)—

8 (A) by striking “An eligible veteran” and
9 inserting “(A) An eligible veteran”; and

10 (B) by adding at the end the following new
11 subparagraph:

12 “(B) The Secretary shall develop and implement a
13 single digital system through which each employee of the
14 Veterans Health Administration or the Board of Veterans’
15 Appeals responsible for evaluating an application sub-
16 mitted under subparagraph (A), or appeals of decisions
17 of the Secretary with respect to any such application, may
18 access—

19 “(i) each such application; and

20 “(ii) all documents received or submitted with
21 respect to each such application.”; and

22 (2) in subsection (c)—

23 (A) in the heading, by inserting “; TRAIN-
24 ING” after “CONSTRUCTION”;

25 (B) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) by striking “construed to create—
2 ” and inserting “construed—”;

3 (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs
4 (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respec-
5 tively (and conforming the margins accord-
6 ingly);

7 (iii) by inserting before the matter so
8 redesignated the following new subpara-
9 graph:

10 “(A) to create—”;

11 (iv) in clause (ii) of subparagraph (A),
12 as added by clause (iii), by striking the pe-
13 riod at the end and inserting “; or”; and

14 (v) by inserting after subparagraph
15 (A), as added by clause (iii), the following
16 new subparagraph:

17 “(B) as affecting, if an eligible veteran dies
18 during the pendency of an appeal of a decision of
19 the Secretary affecting the furnishing of assistance
20 or support services under this section, the eligibility
21 of a family caregiver to receive monthly personal
22 caregiver stipends under subsection
23 (a)(3)(A)(ii)(V)—

24 “(i) to which the family caregiver was enti-
25 tled on the date of the death of the eligible vet-

1 eran based on evidence in the file for such vet-
2 eran or caregiver on such date; and

3 “(ii) due and unpaid as of such date.”; and

4 (C) by adding at the end the following new
5 paragraph:

6 “(3) The Secretary shall ensure that any employee
7 of the Veterans Health Administration responsible for
8 evaluating appeals of decisions of the Secretary affecting
9 the furnishing of assistance or support services under this
10 section is provided the same guidance and completes the
11 same training as a higher-level adjudicator under section
12 5104B of this title.”.

13 (b) REQUIRED CONSIDERATIONS.—

14 (1) DIGITAL SYSTEMS.—In developing the dig-
15 ital system required by subsection (a)(4)(B) of sec-
16 tion 1720G of title 38, United States Code, (as
17 added by subsection (a)(1)), the Secretary of Vet-
18 erans Affairs shall consider—

19 (A) lessons learned from the implementa-
20 tion of the Veterans Benefits Management Sys-
21 tem to process claims for benefits under laws
22 administered by the Secretary; and

23 (B) whether other programs administered
24 by the Veterans Health Administration would
25 improve from the development of a single dig-

1 ital system through which applications and doc-
2 uments relating to such programs may be
3 accessed by employees of the Veterans Health
4 Administration responsible for evaluating such
5 applications and documents.

6 (2) TRAINING.—In carrying out the require-
7 ment under subsection (c)(3) of such section (as
8 added by subsection (a)(2)), the Secretary shall con-
9 sider best practices developed from efforts of the
10 Secretary to standardize the guidance and training
11 available to employees of the Department of Vet-
12 erans Affairs responsible for the delivery of disability
13 compensation to veterans eligible for such compensa-
14 tion.

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