

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1394

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to acknowledge the receipt of medical, disability, and pension claims and other communications submitted by claimants, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 6, 2009

Mrs. GILLIBRAND 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 acknowledge the receipt of medical, disability, and pension claims and other communications submitted by claimants, 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 Entitlement
5 to Service Act of 2009” or the “VETS Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. ACKNOWLEDGMENT BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS**
 2 **AFFAIRS OF RECEIPT OF MEDICAL, DIS-**
 3 **ABILITY, AND PENSION CLAIMS AND OTHER**
 4 **COMMUNICATIONS SUBMITTED BY CLAIM-**
 5 **ANTS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 51 of title 38, United
 7 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 5102
 8 the following new section:

9 **“§ 5102A. Acknowledgment of claims**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall acknowledge
 11 the receipt of any claim for medical services, disability
 12 compensation, or pension under the laws administered by
 13 the Secretary, or other communication relating to such
 14 services, compensation, or pension, submitted to the Sec-
 15 retary by a claimant within 30 days of receiving the claim
 16 or other communication.

17 “(b) RECORD OF DATE RECEIVED.—The acknowl-
 18 edgment required by subsection (a) shall specify the date
 19 on which the Secretary received the claim or other commu-
 20 nication described in such subsection.

21 “(c) MANNER OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—The ac-
 22 knowledgment required by subsection (a) shall be commu-
 23 nicated via written or electronic means, as the Secretary
 24 considers appropriate. Such electronic means may include
 25 communication via email.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
2 at the beginning of chapter 51 of such title is amended
3 by inserting after the item related to section 5102 the fol-
4 lowing new item:

“5102A. Acknowledgment of claims.”.

