

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3052

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide veterans, when such veterans electronically file claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, with notice that relevant services may be available to the veterans from veterans service organizations, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 9, 2012

Mr. BROWN of Ohio 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 require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide veterans, when such veterans electronically file claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, with notice that relevant services may be available to the veterans from veterans service organizations, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. PROVISION BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AF-**
 2 **FAIRS OF NOTICE TO VETERANS ELECTRONI-**
 3 **CALLY FILING CLAIMS OF AVAILABILITY OF**
 4 **SERVICES FROM VETERANS SERVICE ORGA-**
 5 **NIZATIONS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 51 of title
 7 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after sec-
 8 tion 5103A the following new section:

9 **“§ 5103B. Notice to claimants filing claims electroni-**
 10 **cally of availability of services from vet-**
 11 **erans service organizations**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) To the degree practicable,
 13 the Secretary shall, during and as part of any electronic
 14 filing process established by the Secretary for the filing
 15 of applications by claimants for benefits under laws ad-
 16 ministered by the Secretary—

17 “(A) notify each claimant or the claimant’s rep-
 18 resentative, if any, who is filing an application for a
 19 benefit under a law administered by the Secretary
 20 using such electronic filing process, that services
 21 may be available to the claimant from veterans serv-
 22 ice organizations with respect to the claimant’s ap-
 23 plication or the benefit for which the claimant is ap-
 24 plying; and

1 “(B) provide such claimant or claimant’s rep-
 2 resentative with a list of veterans service organiza-
 3 tions that provide such services.

4 “(2) When providing a list of veterans service organi-
 5 zations to a claimant or claimant’s representative under
 6 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall include contact infor-
 7 mation for each veterans service organization and, when-
 8 ever applicable, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for
 9 the Internet website of each organization.

10 “(b) COLLABORATION.—To the degree practicable,
 11 the Secretary shall collaborate with veterans service orga-
 12 nizations in carrying out this section.

13 “(c) VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION DE-
 14 FINED.—In this section, the term ‘veterans service organi-
 15 zation’ means any organization recognized by the Sec-
 16 retary for the representation of veterans under section
 17 5902 of this title.”.

18 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 19 at the beginning of chapter 51 of such title is amended
 20 by inserting after the item relating to section 5103A the
 21 following new item:

“5103B. Notice to claimants filing claims electronically of availability of services
 from veterans service organizations.”.

