

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1295

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 15, 2013

Mr. BROWN 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 with notice, when veterans electronically file claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, that relevant services may be available 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. NOTICE TO VETERANS FILING CLAIMS ELEC-**
2 **TRONICALLY OF AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES**
3 **FROM VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 51 of title
5 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after sec-
6 tion 5103A the following new section:

7 **“§ 5103B. Notice to claimants filing claims electroni-**
8 **cally of availability of services from vet-**
9 **erans service organizations**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) To the degree practicable,
11 the Secretary shall, during and as part of any electronic
12 filing process established by the Secretary for the filing
13 of applications for benefits under laws administered by the
14 Secretary—

15 “(A) notify each claimant, or a representative
16 of the claimant, who is filing an application for a
17 benefit under a law administered by the Secretary
18 using such electronic filing process that services may
19 be available to the claimant from veterans service or-
20 ganizations with respect to the application or the
21 benefit for which the claimant is applying; and

22 “(B) provide such claimant or representative
23 with a list of veterans service organizations that pro-
24 vide such services.

25 “(2) When providing a list of veterans service organi-
26 zations to a claimant or representative under paragraph

1 (1), the Secretary shall include contact information for
 2 each veterans service organization and, whenever applica-
 3 ble, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Internet
 4 website of each organization.

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

8 “(c) VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION DE-
 9 FINED.—In this section, the term ‘veterans service organi-
 10 zation’ means any organization recognized by the Sec-
 11 retary for the representation of veterans under section
 12 5902 of this title.”.

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

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

