

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1039

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 8, 2025

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT

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”.

6 **SEC. 2. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF NOTICES THAT THE**
7 **SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SENDS**
8 **TO CLAIMANTS.**

9 (a) AGREEMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the
10 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
11 erans Affairs shall seek to enter into an agreement with
12 an FFRDC for an assessment of notices that the Sec-
13 retary sends to claimants.

14 (b) ASSESSMENT.—An FFRDC that enters to an
15 agreement under subsection (a) shall submit to the Sec-
16 retary a written assessment of such notices. The assess-
17 ment shall include the following:

18 (1) The determination of the FFRDC, made in
19 consultation with covered entities, whether each such
20 notice may be feasibly altered to reduce paper con-
21 sumption by, and costs to, the Federal Government.

22 (2) The recommendations of the FFRDC re-
23 garding how the Secretary may make such notices
24 clearer to claimants, better organized, and more con-
25 cise.

1 (c) REPORT; IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 90
2 days after the Secretary receives the assessment under
3 subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

4 (1) submit to the Committees on Veterans' Af-
5 fairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a
6 copy of such assessment; and

7 (2) implement the recommendations in the as-
8 sessment that are in compliance with the laws ad-
9 ministered by the Secretary.

10 (d) DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—The Sec-
11 retary shall complete the implementation of such rec-
12 ommendations pursuant to subsection (c)(2) by not later
13 than one year after the date on which the Secretary com-
14 mences such implementation.

15 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) The term “FFRDC” means a federally
17 funded research and development center.

18 (2) The term “covered entities” includes—

19 (A) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

20 (B) an expert in laws administered by the
21 Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

22 (C) a veterans service organization recog-
23 nized under section 5902 of title 38, United
24 States Code;

1 (D) an entity that advocates for veterans;
2 and

3 (E) an entity that advocates for the sur-
4 vivors of veterans.

5 (3) The terms “claimant” and “notice” have
6 the meanings given such terms in section 5100 of
7 title 38, United States Code.

8 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF**
9 **PENSION.**

10 Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code,
11 is amended by striking “November 30, 2031” and insert-
12 ing “December 31, 2031”.

Passed the House of Representatives April 7, 2025.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.