

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 1286

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 20, 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 forms 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Simplifying Forms for  
3 Veterans Claims Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF FORMS THAT THE**  
5 **SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SENDS**  
6 **TO CLAIMANTS.**

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

12 (b) ASSESSMENT.—An FFRDC that enters to an  
13 agreement under subsection (a) shall submit to the Sec-  
14 retary a written assessment, made in consultation with  
15 covered entities, of such forms. The assessment shall in-  
16 clude the recommendations of the FFRDC regarding how  
17 the Secretary may make such forms clearer to claimants  
18 and better organized.

19 (c) REPORT; IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 90  
20 days after the Secretary receives the assessment under  
21 subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

22 (1) submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Af-  
23 fairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a  
24 copy of such assessment; and

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

4           (d) DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—The Sec-  
5           retary shall complete the implementation of such rec-  
6           ommendations pursuant to subsection (c)(2) by not later  
7           than two years after the date on which the Secretary com-  
8           mences such implementation.

9           (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

13                   (A) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

14                   (B) an expert in laws administered by the  
15           Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

16                   (C) a veterans service organization recog-  
17           nized under section 5902 of title 38, United  
18           States Code;

19                   (D) an entity that advocates for veterans;  
20           and

21                   (E) an entity that advocates for survivors  
22           of veterans.

23           (3) The term “claimant” has the meaning given  
24           such term in section 5100 of title 38, United States  
25           Code.

1 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF**  
2 **PENSION.**

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

Passed the House of Representatives May 19, 2025.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
*Clerk.*