

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1578

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 20, 2025

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

AN ACT

To amend title 38, United States Code, to promote assistance from persons recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for individuals who file certain claims under laws administered by the Secretary.

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 “Veterans Claims Edu-
3 cation Act of 2025”.

4 **SEC. 2. PROMOTION OF ASSISTANCE FROM PERSONS REC-**
5 **OGNIZED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS**
6 **AFFAIRS FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO FILE CER-**
7 **TAIN CLAIMS UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED**
8 **BY THE SECRETARY.**

9 (a) NOTICE TO CLAIMANTS OF AVAILABLE ASSIST-
10 ANCE FROM RECOGNIZED PERSONS.—Section 5103A of
11 title 38, United States Code, is amended—

12 (1) by redesignating subsections (g) through (i)
13 as subsections (i) through (k), respectively;

14 (2) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-
15 lowing new subsections:

16 “(g) Upon receipt of an initial claim by a claimant
17 not represented by an accredited person, the Secretary
18 shall provide notice to the claimant that—

19 “(1) an accredited person may be able to rep-
20 resent the claimant;

21 “(2) a veterans service organization recognized
22 under section 5902 of this title may represent the
23 claimant at no charge to the claimant;

24 “(3) provides the web address of the online tool
25 maintained under subsection (h); and

1 “(4) provides the web address of an appropriate
2 and publicly accessible website of the Department
3 through which a claimant may report—

4 “(A) a person, who is not an accredited
5 person, who represented the claimant; and

6 “(B) any fee charged by such person for
7 such representation.

8 “(h)(1) The Secretary shall maintain an online tool
9 that allows a claimant to search a list of accredited per-
10 sons who represent claimants.

11 “(2) The Secretary shall ensure that such list is cur-
12 rent at least once each calendar quarter.

13 “(3) The Secretary shall ensure that such tool is eas-
14 ily accessible to a claimant.”; and

15 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
16 section:

17 “(l) In this section:

18 “(1) The term ‘accredited person’ means—

19 “(A) a veterans service organization recog-
20 nized under section 5902 of this title; or

21 “(B) an attorney, agent, or other person
22 recognized under section 5904 of this title.

23 “(2) The term ‘represent’ means to prepare,
24 present, or prosecute a claim under a law adminis-
25 tered by the Secretary on behalf of a claimant.”.

1 (b) ONLINE INFORMATION REGARDING PERSONS
2 THAT ASSIST CLAIMANTS.—The Secretary of Veterans
3 Affairs shall include, in each web portal of the Department
4 of Veterans Affairs, through which an individual may file
5 a claim for a benefit administered by the Under Secretary
6 for Benefits or the Under Secretary for Health, a warning
7 regarding fees an agent or attorney may charge such indi-
8 vidual for assistance in filing such claim. Such warning
9 shall include the following:

10 (1) A link to the online tool maintained under
11 subsection (h) of section 5103A of such title, as
12 amended by subsection (a).

13 (2) A link to the website of the Department de-
14 scribed in subparagraph (D) of section 5103A(f)(1)
15 of such title, as amended by subsection (a).

16 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
17 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

18 (1) complete a review the regulations, processes,
19 and procedures of the Department of Veterans Af-
20 fairs that pertain to recognition under section 5904
21 of title 38, United States Code;

22 (2) develop recommendations for legislative or
23 administrative action to improve such regulations,
24 processes, and procedures; and

Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code,
is amended by striking “November 30, 2031” and insert-
ing “March 31, 2032”.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.