

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1746

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the laws relating to the recognition of agents, attorneys, organizations and their representatives, and other individuals for the purposes of assisting in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2025

Mr. STANTON (for himself and Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the laws relating to the recognition of agents, attorneys, organizations and their representatives, and other individuals for the purposes of assisting in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, 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 “Standardizing Accredi-
3 tation information for Veteran Ease Act” or the “SAVE
4 Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORT.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 59 of title 38, United
7 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
8 lowing new sections:

9 **“§ 5907. Annual submission of information on rec-**
10 **ognition of agents, attorneys, organiza-**
11 **tions and their representatives, and other**
12 **individuals**

13 “The Secretary shall include in the annual report re-
14 quired to be submitted to Congress under section 529 of
15 this title information on agents, attorneys, organizations
16 and their representatives, and any other individuals recog-
17 nized under this chapter. Such information shall include,
18 for the year covered by the report, the following:

19 “(1) A description of the type and frequency of
20 training that is required to be recognized, or to con-
21 tinue to be recognized, under this chapter and of
22 any review or audit conducted of such training.

23 “(2) A description of the type of information
24 the Secretary collects from individuals who request
25 to be recognized, or to continue to be recognized,
26 under this chapter.

1 “(3) A description of the method the Secretary
2 uses to gather personal and qualifying information
3 from individuals and organizations recognized or
4 seeking recognition under this chapter.

5 “(4) An identification of the frequency with
6 which the Secretary receives updated personal and
7 qualifying information from individuals and organi-
8 zations recognized under this chapter.

9 “(5) A description of the method the Secretary
10 uses to verify personal and qualifying information
11 received from individuals and organizations recog-
12 nized or seeking recognition under this chapter.

13 “(6) An identification of the frequency with
14 which individuals and organizations recognized
15 under this chapter are required to comply with ongoing reporting requirements.

17 “(7) An identification of the number of Department employees responsible for the administration of
18 this chapter.

20 “(8) An identification of the frequency with
21 which the VA Accreditation Search database, or any
22 successor to such database, is—

23 “(A) updated; and

24 “(B) checked for accuracy, including with
25 respect to the accuracy of contact information

1 and the removal of individuals and organiza-
2 tions no longer recognized to assist veterans in
3 the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of
4 claims under laws administered by the Sec-
5 retary.

6 “(9) A description of the steps the Secretary
7 has taken to ensure such database is updated.

8 “(10) An identification of any additional re-
9 sources the Department may need to ensure that—

10 “(A) any published information regarding
11 individuals and organizations recognized under
12 this chapter is accurate and up-to date; and

13 “(B) individuals who are recognized under
14 this chapter are of good moral character and in
15 good repute, are qualified to render claimants
16 valuable service, and are otherwise competent to
17 assist claimants in presenting claims under laws
18 administered by the Secretary.

19 “(11) An identification of the costs of proc-
20 essing applications for recognition under this chap-
21 ter.

22 “(12) A description of the timeline for proc-
23 essing applications for recognition under this chap-
24 ter.

1 “(13) An identification of how frequently indi-
2 viduals seeking recognition under this chapter are
3 denied such recognition and for what reasons.

4 “(14) An identification of how frequently rec-
5 ognition is rescinded from individuals recognized
6 under this chapter and for what reasons.

7 **“§ 5908. Certification mark for identification of recog-**
8 **nized individuals**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
10 fairs shall establish and maintain a certification mark,
11 which may be used to identify individuals who are recog-
12 nized under this chapter for the purposes of assisting in
13 the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims
14 for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary.
15 Such certification mark shall be registered with the United
16 States Patent and Trademark Office.

17 “(b) CIVIL PENALTY FOR VIOLATION.—(1) A person
18 who displays or otherwise uses the certification mark es-
19 tablished under subsection (a) for the fraudulent purpose
20 of inducing the belief that the person is recognized under
21 this chapter for the purposes of assisting in the prepara-
22 tion, presentation, and prosecution of claims for benefits
23 under the laws administered by the Secretary shall be
24 fined in accordance with title 18, imprisoned, or both.

1 “(2) This subsection shall not make unlawful the use
 2 of any such emblem, sign, insignia or words which was
 3 lawful on the date of enactment of this section.

4 “(3) Amounts collected as civil penalties pursuant to
 5 this subsection shall remain available for the Department
 6 of Veterans Affairs, without fiscal year limitation, for the
 7 purpose of enforcing paragraph (1).”.

8 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 9 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
 10 after the item relating to section 5906 the following new
 11 items:

“5907. Annual submission of information on recognition of agents, attorneys,
 organizations and their representatives, and other individuals.
 “5908. Certification mark for identification of recognized individuals.”.

12 **SEC. 3. BIENNIAL DATABASE ACCURACY.**

13 Not later than 180 days after the date on which the
 14 Secretary submits the first report under section 529 of
 15 title 38, United States Code, that includes the information
 16 required to be submitted under section 5907 of title 38,
 17 United States Code, as added by section 2, and annually
 18 thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

19 (1) provide to each individual recognized under
 20 chapter 59 of title 38, United States Code, a notice
 21 that includes a request to update the contact infor-
 22 mation of the individual provided to the Department
 23 of Veterans Affairs;

1 (2) make publicly available instructions such in-
2 dividuals may use to update such contact informa-
3 tion; and

4 (3) ensure the VA Accreditation Search Data-
5 base is updated to include updated contact informa-
6 tion.

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