107TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H.R. 1746

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs establish a single "1–800" telephone number for access by the public to veterans benefits counselors of the Department of Veterans Affairs and to ensure that such counselors have available to them information about veterans benefits provided by all Federal departments and agencies and by State governments.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 8, 2001

Mr. BAKER (for himself, Mr. SIMMONS, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

- To amend title 38, United States Code, to require that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs establish a single "1– 800" telephone number for access by the public to veterans benefits counselors of the Department of Veterans Affairs and to ensure that such counselors have available to them information about veterans benefits provided by all Federal departments and agencies and by State governments.
 - 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
 - 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

1 That section 7723 of title 38, United States Code, is2 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-3 section:

4 "(c)(1) The Secretary shall provide for a single toll5 free (so-called '1-800') telephone number to be available
6 for access by the public to veterans benefits counselors of
7 the Department.

8 "(2) The Secretary shall ensure that (in addition to 9 information about benefits provided under laws adminis-10 tered by the Secretary) veterans benefits counselors of the 11 Department have available to them information about vet-12 erans benefits provided by—

13 "(A) all other departments and agencies of the14 United States and

15 "(B) State governments.

"(3) For purposes of this subsection, the term 'veterans benefits' means benefits provided to persons based
upon their own service or the service of someone else in
the Armed Forces.".

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