

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5801

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to correct and prevent variances in disability compensation payments made by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 13, 2006

Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. HOLT, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, and Ms. DELAURO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to correct and prevent variances in disability compensation payments made by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REDUC-**
2 **TION OF VARIANCES IN THE ADJUDICATION**
3 **AND AWARDING OF DISABILITY COMPENSA-**
4 **TION BENEFITS.**

5 (a) REDUCTION OF VARIANCES REQUIRED.—Chapter
6 11 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding
7 at the end the following new section:

8 **“§ 1164. Reduction of variances in adjudication and**
9 **awarding of benefits**

10 “(a) REDUCTION OF VARIANCES.—The Secretary
11 shall take steps to reduce variances in the adjudication
12 and awarding of benefits under this chapter in accordance
13 with this section.

14 “(b) DATA COLLECTION.—In order to carry out sub-
15 section (a), the Secretary shall develop and implement a
16 comprehensive and systematic method for collecting data
17 on variances in the adjudication and awarding of benefits
18 under this chapter.

19 “(c) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—In collecting data
20 pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary shall include the
21 following matters:

22 “(1) The percentage of claims for disability
23 compensation that are paid and the percentage of
24 such claims that are denied during each fiscal year.

1 “(2) The number of veterans who receive dis-
2 ability compensation payments during each fiscal
3 year.

4 “(3) The amount paid to each veteran receiving
5 a disability compensation payment.

6 “(4) The type of disability for which each such
7 veteran receives a disability compensation payment.

8 “(5) The amount of any payment made to each
9 such veteran as additional compensation for a de-
10 pendent under section 1115 or 1135 of this title.

11 “(6) The amount of any payment made to each
12 such veteran by reason of the veteran’s total
13 unemployability.

14 “(7) Data reflecting any patterns of disability
15 compensation claims submission across veteran sub-
16 populations, including any differences in such sub-
17 missions among veterans of different conflicts and
18 veterans living in different locations.

19 “(8) Any other demographic information the
20 Secretary determines is appropriate for evaluating
21 and explaining variances in the adjudication and
22 awarding of benefits under this chapter.”.

23 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
24 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
25 at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 1164. Reduction of variances in adjudication and awarding of benefits”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ANALYSIS**
2 **AND REPORT ON VARIANCES IN ADJUDICA-**
3 **TION AND AWARDING OF DISABILITY COM-**
4 **PENSATION BENEFITS.**

5 (a) ANALYSIS REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Vet-
6 erans Affairs shall conduct an analysis of any data avail-
7 able to the Secretary concerning variances in the adjudica-
8 tion and awarding of benefits under chapter 11 of title
9 38, United States Code.

10 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
11 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
12 to Congress a report, which shall include the following:

13 (1) The findings of the analysis conducted
14 under subsection (a).

15 (2) Recommendations for the future detection,
16 correction, and prevention of variances in the adju-
17 dication and awarding of benefits.

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