

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2139

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide notice of average times for processing claims and percentage of claims approved, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 30, 2015

Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RUSH, Mr. JONES, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. YOHIO, and Mr. TAKANO) 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 provide notice of average times for processing claims and percentage of claims approved, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veteran’s Benefits
5 Claims Faster Filing Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS NOTICE OF**
2 **AVERAGE TIMES FOR PROCESSING CLAIMS**
3 **AND PERCENTAGE OF CLAIMS APPROVED.**

4 (a) PUBLIC NOTICE.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
5 fairs shall post the information described in subsection
6 (c)—

7 (1) in a conspicuous place in each regional of-
8 fice and claims intake facilities of the Department of
9 Veterans Affairs; and

10 (2) on the Internet Web site of the Department.

11 (b) NOTICE TO APPLICANTS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
13 to each person who submits a claim for benefits
14 under the laws administered by the Secretary before
15 the person submits such claim—

16 (A) notice of the information described in
17 subsection (c); and

18 (B) notice that the person is eligible to re-
19 ceive up to an extra year of benefits payments
20 if the person files a claim that is fully devel-
21 oped.

22 (2) ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF NO-
23 TICE.—Each person who submits a claim for bene-
24 fits under the laws administered by the Secretary
25 shall include in such application a signed form ac-

1 knowledging that the person received the informa-
2 tion described in subsection (c).

3 (c) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The information described in
5 this subsection is the following:

6 (A) The average processing time of the
7 claims described in paragraph (2) and the per-
8 centage of such submitted claims for which ben-
9 efits are awarded.

10 (B) The percentage of each of the fol-
11 lowing types of submitted claims for benefits
12 under the laws administered by the Secretary of
13 Veterans Affairs for which benefits are award-
14 ed:

15 (i) Claims filed by veterans who au-
16 thorized a veterans service organization to
17 act on the veterans' behalf under a durable
18 power of attorney.

19 (ii) Claims filed by veterans who au-
20 thorized a person other than a veterans
21 service organization to act on the veterans'
22 behalf under a durable power of attorney.

23 (iii) Claims filed by veterans who did
24 not authorize a person to act on the vet-

1 erans' behalf under a durable power of at-
2 torney.

3 (2) CLAIMS DESCRIBED.—The claims described
4 in this paragraph are each of the following types of
5 claims for benefits under the laws administered by
6 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs:

7 (A) A fully developed claim that is sub-
8 mitted in standard electronic form.

9 (B) A fully developed claim that is sub-
10 mitted in standard paper form.

11 (C) A claim that is not fully developed that
12 is submitted in standard electronic form.

13 (D) A claim that is not fully developed
14 that is submitted in standard paper form.

15 (E) A claim that is not fully developed that
16 is submitted in non-standard paper form.

17 (3) UPDATE OF INFORMATION.—The informa-
18 tion described in this subsection shall be updated not
19 less frequently than once each fiscal quarter.

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