

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2691

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to adjudicate and pay survivor's benefits without requiring the filing of a formal claim, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 2015

Mr. RUIZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to adjudicate and pay survivor's benefits without requiring the filing of a formal claim, 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 “Veterans’ Survivors  
5 Claims Processing Automation Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. EXPEDITED PAYMENT OF SURVIVOR’S BENEFITS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5101(a)(1) of title 38,  
8 United States Code, is amended—

1           (1) by striking “A specific” and inserting “(A)  
2       Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a specific”;  
3       and

4           (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
5       paragraph:

6       “(B)(i) The Secretary may pay benefits under chap-  
7       ters 13 and 15 and sections 2302, 2307, and 5121 of this  
8       title to a survivor of a veteran who has not filed a formal  
9       claim if the Secretary determines that the record contains  
10      sufficient evidence to establish the entitlement of the sur-  
11      vivor to such benefits.

12      “(ii) For purposes of this subparagraph and section  
13      5110 of this title, the date on which a survivor of a veteran  
14      notifies the Secretary of the death of the veteran shall be  
15      treated as the date of the receipt of the survivor’s applica-  
16      tion for benefits described in clause (i).”.

17      (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by  
18      subsection (a) shall apply with respect to claims for bene-  
19      fits based on a death occurring on or after the date of  
20      the enactment of this Act.

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