

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 732

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the opportunity for veterans to use video conferencing for hearings before the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 2015

Mr. RUIZ (for himself, Mrs. WALORSKI, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. JOLLY, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. RANGEL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the opportunity for veterans to use video conferencing for hearings before the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

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 Access to
5 Speedy Review Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS VIDEO HEARINGS.**

7 Section 7107 of title 38, United States Code, is
8 amended—

1 (1) in subsection (d), by amending paragraph
2 (1) to read as follows:

3 “(1)(A) Upon request for a hearing, the Board shall
4 determine, for purposes of scheduling the hearing for the
5 earliest possible date, whether a hearing before the Board
6 will be held at its principal location or at a facility of the
7 Department or other appropriate Federal facility located
8 within the area served by a regional office of the Depart-
9 ment. The Board shall also determine whether to provide
10 a hearing through the use of the facilities and equipment
11 described in subsection (e)(1) or by the appellant person-
12 ally appearing before a Board member or panel.

13 “(B) The Board shall notify the appellant of the de-
14 terminations of the location and type of hearing made
15 under subparagraph (A). Upon notification, the appellant
16 may request a different location or type of hearing as de-
17 scribed in such subparagraph. If so requested, the Board
18 shall grant such request and ensure that the hearing is
19 scheduled at the earliest possible date without any undue
20 delay or other prejudice to the appellant.”; and

21 (2) in subsection (e), by amending paragraph
22 (2) to read as follows:

23 “(2) Any hearing provided through the use of the fa-
24 cilities and equipment described in paragraph (1) shall be

- 1 conducted in the same manner as, and shall be considered
- 2 the equivalent of, a personal hearing”.

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