

# Union Calendar No. 496

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7643

**[Report No. 118–596]**

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the use of Department of Veterans Affairs work-study allowance to carry out casework, policy making, and oversight related to the activities of the Department at certain congressional offices.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2024

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

JULY 18, 2024

Additional sponsors: Ms. NORTON and Ms. LOFGREN

JULY 18, 2024

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole  
House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 12, 2024]

# **A BILL**

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the use of Department of Veterans Affairs work-study allowance to carry out casework, policy making, and oversight related to the activities of the Department at certain congressional offices.

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 “Clear Communication*  
5       *for Veterans Claims Act”.*

6       **SEC. 2. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF NOTICES THAT THE**  
7                       **SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SENDS**  
8                       **TO CLAIMANTS.**

9       (a) *AGREEMENT.*—*Not later than 30 days after the*  
10       *date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans*  
11       *Affairs shall seek to enter into an agreement with an*  
12       *FFRDC for an assessment of notices that the Secretary*  
13       *sends to claimants.*

14       (b) *ASSESSMENT.*—*An FFRDC that enters to an*  
15       *agreement under subsection (a) shall submit to the Sec-*  
16       *retary a written assessment of such notices. The assessment*  
17       *shall include the following:*

18               (1) *The determination of the FFRDC, made in*  
19       *consultation with covered entities, whether each such*  
20       *notice may be feasibly altered to reduce paper con-*  
21       *sumption by, and costs to, the Federal Government.*

22               (2) *The recommendations of the FFRDC regard-*  
23       *ing how the Secretary may make such notices clearer*  
24       *to claimants, better organized, and more concise.*

1       (c) *REPORT; IMPLEMENTATION.*—Not later than 90  
 2       days after the Secretary receives the assessment under sub-  
 3       section (b), the Secretary shall—

4               (1) *submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Af-*  
 5       *fairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a*  
 6       *copy of such assessment; and*

7               (2) *implement the recommendations in the as-*  
 8       *essment that are in compliance with the laws admin-*  
 9       *istered by the Secretary.*

10       (d) *DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.*—The Secretary  
 11       *shall complete the implementation of such recommendations*  
 12       *pursuant to subsection (c)(2) by not later than one year*  
 13       *after the date on which the Secretary commences such im-*  
 14       *plementation.*

15       (e) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

16               (1) *The term “FFRDC” means a federally fund-*  
 17       *ed research and development center.*

18               (2) *The term “covered entities” includes—*

19                       (A) *the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;*

20                       (B) *an expert in laws administered by the*  
 21       *Secretary of Veterans Affairs;*

22                       (C) *a veterans service organization recog-*  
 23       *nized under section 5902 of title 38, United*  
 24       *States Code; and*

25                       (D) *an entity that advocates for veterans.*

1           (3) *The terms “claimant” and “notice” have the*  
2           *meanings given such terms in section 5100 of title 38,*  
3           *United States Code.*

4   **SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN HOUSING LOAN FEES.**

5           *The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38,*  
6           *United States Code, is amended by striking “November 15,*  
7           *2031” each place it appears and inserting “November 29,*  
8           *2031”.*

Union Calendar No. 496

118<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> Session

H. R. 7643

[Report No. 118-596]

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the use of Department of Veterans Affairs work-study allowance to carry out casework, policy making, and oversight related to the activities of the Department at certain congressional offices.

JULY 18, 2024

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed