

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1286

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 20, 2025

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center for an assessment of forms that the Secretary sends to claimants for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Simplifying Forms for
3 Veterans Claims Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF FORMS THAT THE**
5 **SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SENDS**
6 **TO CLAIMANTS.**

7 (a) AGREEMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
9 erans Affairs shall seek to enter into an agreement with
10 an FFRDC for an assessment of forms that the Secretary
11 sends to claimants.

12 (b) ASSESSMENT.—An FFRDC that enters to an
13 agreement under subsection (a) shall submit to the Sec-
14 retary a written assessment, made in consultation with
15 covered entities, of such forms. The assessment shall in-
16 clude the recommendations of the FFRDC regarding how
17 the Secretary may make such forms clearer to claimants
18 and better organized.

19 (c) REPORT; IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 90
20 days after the Secretary receives the assessment under
21 subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

22 (1) submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Af-
23 fairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a
24 copy of such assessment; and

1 (2) implement the recommendations in the as-
2 sessment that are in compliance with the laws ad-
3 ministered by the Secretary.

4 (d) DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—The Sec-
5 retary shall complete the implementation of such rec-
6 ommendations pursuant to subsection (c)(2) by not later
7 than two years after the date on which the Secretary com-
8 mences such implementation.

9 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) The term “FFRDC” means a federally
11 funded research and development center.

12 (2) The term “covered entities” includes—

13 (A) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

14 (B) an expert in laws administered by the
15 Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

16 (C) a veterans service organization recog-
17 nized under section 5902 of title 38, United
18 States Code;

19 (D) an entity that advocates for veterans;
20 and

21 (E) an entity that advocates for survivors
22 of veterans.

23 (3) The term “claimant” has the meaning given
24 such term in section 5100 of title 38, United States
25 Code.

1 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF**
2 **PENSION.**

3 Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code,
4 is amended by striking “November 30, 2031” and insert-
5 ing “December 31, 2031”.

Passed the House of Representatives May 19, 2025.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.