

Union Calendar No. 216

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3854

[Report No. 119–260]

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit a plan to expand the use of certain automation tools in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 2025

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

SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

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 June 9, 2025]

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit a plan to expand the use of certain automation tools in the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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 “Modernizing All Vet-*
 5 *erans and Survivors Claims Processing Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ANNUAL RE-**
 7 **PORT ON CAUSES OF DEATH AMONG VET-**
 8 **ERANS.**

9 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 5 of title*
 10 *38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end*
 11 *the following new section:*

12 **“§ 534. Annual report on causes of death among vet-**
 13 **erans**

14 *“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit to the*
 15 *Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representa-*
 16 *tives and the Senate an annual report that contains data*
 17 *and information on causes of death among veterans.*

18 *“(b) ELEMENTS.—Such report shall include—*

19 *“(1) for each veteran that died during the period*
 20 *covered by the report an identification of—*

21 *“(A) whether such veteran had a service-*
 22 *connected disability rated as total;*

23 *“(B) the primary cause of death;*

24 *“(C) the secondary cause of death, if appli-*
 25 *cable; and*

1 “(D) the manner of death;

2 “(2) for each primary cause of death identified
3 pursuant to paragraph (1), a statement of the total
4 number of veterans that died from such primary
5 cause of death during the period covered by the re-
6 port; and

7 “(3) for each manner of death identified pursu-
8 ant to paragraph (1), a statement of the total number
9 of veterans that died in such manner during the pe-
10 riod covered by the report.

11 “(c) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate on the date
12 that is five years after the date of the enactment of the Jus-
13 tice for America’s Veterans and Survivors Act of 2025.”.

14 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at
15 the beginning of chapter 5 of such title is amended by in-
16 serting after the item relating to section 533 the following
17 new item:

 “534. Annual report on causes of death among veterans”.

18 **SEC. 3. PLAN FOR USE OF AUTOMATION TOOLS TO PROC-**
19 **ESS CLAIMS UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY**
20 **THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
22 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans
23 Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs
24 of the Senate and House of Representatives the plan of the
25 Secretary to make available, to the maximum extent prac-

1 *ticable, an automation tool described in subsection (b) to*
2 *elements of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the pur-*
3 *pose of processing claims under laws administered by the*
4 *Secretary.*

5 *(b) AUTOMATION TOOL DESCRIBED.—An automation*
6 *tool described in this subsection is a technology developed*
7 *for the Compensation Service of the Veterans Benefits Ad-*
8 *ministration that—*

9 *(1) automates the retrieval of the service record*
10 *or health records of a veteran;*

11 *(2) compiles evidence relevant to the determina-*
12 *tion of a claim for benefits under laws administered*
13 *by the Secretary;*

14 *(3) provides automated decision support relevant*
15 *to such a determination;*

16 *(4) automates information sharing between Fed-*
17 *eral agencies; and*

18 *(5) assists in generating correspondence regard-*
19 *ing such a claim.*

20 *(c) ANALYSIS.—In developing the plan required under*
21 *subsection (a), the Secretary shall conduct an analysis of*
22 *each of the following:*

23 *(1) The feasibility and benefits of the use of an*
24 *automation tool described in subsection (b) by ele-*

1 *ments of the Department for the purpose of processing*
2 *claims under laws administered by the Secretary.*

3 *(2) Any modification to an existing automation*
4 *tool that could render such tool usable for such pur-*
5 *pose by such an element.*

6 *(3) Any requirement of any such element per-*
7 *taining to such purpose that cannot be addressed by*
8 *using an automation tool.*

9 *(4) The extent to which the technology offices of*
10 *such elements may need to collaborate with the tech-*
11 *nology office responsible for developing an automation*
12 *tool in the course of the development and use of the*
13 *tool by the element for such purpose.*

14 *(5) A timeline for modifying and implementing*
15 *any automation tool for use by such elements for such*
16 *purpose.*

17 *(d) PRIORITY.—In providing an automation tool de-*
18 *scribed in subsection (b) to elements of the Department pur-*
19 *suant to the plan required under subsection (a), the Sec-*
20 *retary shall give priority to the following elements:*

21 *(1) The Pension and Fiduciary Service of the*
22 *Veterans Benefits Administration.*

23 *(2) The Education Service of the Veterans Bene-*
24 *fits Administration.*

1 (3) *Program offices of the Veterans Benefits Ad-*
 2 *ministration, as determined by the Secretary.*

3 (4) *The Debt Management Center.*

4 (5) *The Board of Veterans' Appeals.*

5 **SEC. 4. OTHER REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO TECH-**
 6 **NOLOGY AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
 7 **FAIRS.**

8 (a) *AUTOMATIC NOTICES REGARDING BENEFITS FOR*
 9 *CERTAIN CHILDREN OF VETERANS.—*

10 (1) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after*
 11 *the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of*
 12 *Veterans Affairs shall implement policies, processes,*
 13 *and technological capabilities, including in the Na-*
 14 *tional Work Queue (or successor system), to ensure*
 15 *that, in the case of any covered situation, a claims*
 16 *processors is made aware of, and assigned to address,*
 17 *such covered situation.*

18 (2) *DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:*

19 (A) *The term “covered situation” means—*

20 (i) *any increase in the amount of de-*
 21 *pendency compensation paid to a bene-*
 22 *ficiary for a child under the laws adminis-*
 23 *tered by the Secretary; and*

1 (ii) any educational assistance paid to
2 the child of a veteran under the laws ad-
3 ministered by the Secretary.

4 (B) The term “child” has the meaning given
5 such term in section 101(4)(A)(iii) of title 38,
6 United States Code.

7 (b) *CORRECT LABELING OF DOCUMENTS.*—Not later
8 than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act,
9 the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’
10 Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a plan
11 to ensure that documents in the Veterans Benefits Manage-
12 ment System (or any successor system) are correctly labeled
13 when such documents are uploaded, including when such
14 documents are labeled using automation tools.

15 **SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF**
16 **PENSION.**

17 Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is
18 amended by striking “November 30, 2031” and inserting
19 “January 31, 2032”.

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