

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3450

To direct the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the backlog of disability compensation claims submitted to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 17, 2023

Mrs. TORRES of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the backlog of disability compensation claims submitted to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

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 Administra-
5 tion Backlog Accountability Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT ON BACKLOG OF**
2 **DISABILITY COMPENSATION CLAIMS SUB-**
3 **MITTED TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
4 **FAIRS.**

5 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
6 of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the
7 Department of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress
8 a report on the backlog of disability compensation claims
9 submitted to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs pursuant
10 to chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, pending be-
11 fore the Veterans Benefits Administration or the Board
12 of Veterans' Appeals.

13 (b) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The report under sub-
14 section (a) shall include the following:

15 (1) A description of the status of the backlog
16 described in such subsection.

17 (2) An assessment of how the Secretary is ad-
18 dressing such backlog, including how the Secretary
19 is recruiting staff to fill open positions within the
20 Department using authorities or amounts available
21 under the Honoring our PACT Act of 2022 (Public
22 Law 117–168).

23 (3) An assessment of how such backlog affects
24 the average amount of time claimants who have sub-
25 mitted disability compensation claims pursuant to

1 chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, wait for
2 the Secretary to adjudicate those claims.

3 (4) An assessment of how the Secretary is pre-
4 paring to address the predicted 50 percent increase
5 in such claims resulting from the Honoring our
6 PACT Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–168).

7 (5) An overview of how new technologies, such
8 as automated decision support technology, have con-
9 tributed to the reduction of such backlog.

10 (6) Recommendations by the Inspector General
11 to further reduce such backlog.

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