

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7340

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the laws relating to the recognition of agents, attorneys, organizations and their representatives, and other individuals for the purposes of assisting in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2024

Mr. STANTON (for himself and Mrs. LESKO) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

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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 “Accurate VA Accredi-
3 tation Information Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORT.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 59 of title 38, United
6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing new sections:

8 **“§ 5907. Annual submission of information on rec-
9 gnition of agents, attorneys, organiza-
10 tions and their representatives, and other
11 individuals**

12 “The Secretary shall include in the annual report re-
13 quired to be submitted to Congress under section 529 of
14 this title information on agents, attorneys, organizations
15 and their representatives, and any other individuals recog-
16 nized under this chapter. Such information shall include,
17 for the year covered by the report, the following:

18 “(1) A description of the type and frequency of
19 training that is required to be recognized, or to con-
20 tinue to be recognized, under this chapter and of
21 any review or audit conducted of such training.

22 “(2) A description of the type of information
23 the Secretary collects from individuals who request
24 to be recognized, or to continue to be recognized,
25 under this chapter.

1 “(3) A description of the method the Secretary
2 uses to gather personal and qualifying information
3 from individuals and organizations recognized or
4 seeking recognition under this chapter.

5 “(4) An identification of the frequency with
6 which the Secretary receives updated personal and
7 qualifying information from individuals and organi-
8 zations recognized under this chapter.

9 “(5) A description of the method the Secretary
10 uses to verify personal and qualifying information
11 received from individuals and organizations recog-
12 nized or seeking recognition under this chapter.

13 “(6) An identification of the frequency with
14 which individuals and organizations recognized
15 under this chapter are required to comply with ongo-
16 ing reporting requirements.

17 “(7) An identification of the number of Depart-
18 ment employees responsible for the administration of
19 this chapter.

20 “(8) An identification of the frequency with
21 which the VA Accreditation Search database, or any
22 successor to such database, is—

23 “(A) updated; and

24 “(B) checked for accuracy, including with
25 respect to the accuracy of contact information

1 and the removal of individuals and organiza-
2 tions no longer recognized to assist veterans in
3 the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of
4 claims under laws administered by the Sec-
5 retary.

6 “(9) A description of the steps the Secretary
7 has taken to ensure such database is updated.

8 “(10) An identification of any additional re-
9 sources the Department may need to ensure that—

10 “(A) any published information regarding
11 individuals and organizations recognized under
12 this chapter is accurate and up-to date; and

13 “(B) individuals who are recognized under
14 this chapter are of good moral character and in
15 good repute, are qualified to render claimants
16 valuable service, and are otherwise competent to
17 assist claimants in presenting claims under laws
18 administered by the Secretary.

19 “(11) An identification of the costs of proc-
20 essing applications for recognition under this chap-
21 ter.

22 “(12) A description of the timeline for proc-
23 essing applications for recognition under this chap-
24 ter.

1 (2) make publicly available instructions such in-
2 dividuals may use to update such contact informa-
3 tion; and

4 (3) ensure the VA Accreditation Search Data-
5 base is updated to include updated contact informa-
6 tion.

7 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year
9 2024 and each of the next four fiscal years for the Depart-
10 ment of Veterans Affairs such sums as may be necessary
11 to—

12 (1) carry out this Act and the amendments
13 made by this Act; and

14 (2) employ four additional full-time employees
15 of the Department of Veterans Affairs to perform
16 functions to carry out this Act and the amendments
17 made by this Act.

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