

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8880

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 28, 2024

Mr. DUARTE (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. BOST, Mr. PANNETTA, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. HARDER of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Simplifying Forms for
5 Veterans Claims Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF FORMS THAT THE**
2 **SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SENDS**
3 **TO CLAIMANTS.**

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

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

16 (c) REPORT; IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 90
17 days after the Secretary receives the assessment under
18 subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

19 (1) submit to the Committees on Veterans' Af-
20 fairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a
21 copy of such assessment; and

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

25 (d) DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—The Sec-
26 retary shall complete the implementation of such rec-

1 ommendations pursuant to subsection (c)(2) by not later
2 than two years after the date on which the Secretary com-
3 mences such implementation.

4 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

8 (A) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

9 (B) an expert in laws administered by the
10 Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

11 (C) a veterans service organization recog-
12 nized under section 5902 of title 38, United
13 States Code; and

14 (D) an entity that advocates for veterans
15 and survivors of veterans.

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

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