

## Union Calendar No.

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 1578

**[Report No. 119-]**

To amend title 38, United States Code, to promote assistance from persons recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for individuals who file certain claims under laws administered by the Secretary.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2025

Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. OBERNOLTE, and Mr. DELUZIO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

MAY --, 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 *italie*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on February 25, 2025]

# **A BILL**

To amend title 38, United States Code, to promote assistance from persons recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for individuals who file certain claims under laws administered by the Secretary.

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 Claims Edu-*  
5 *cation Act of 2025”.*

6 **SEC. 2. PROMOTION OF ASSISTANCE FROM PERSONS REC-**  
7 **OGNIZED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS**  
8 **AFFAIRS FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO FILE CER-**  
9 **TAIN CLAIMS UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED**  
10 **BY THE SECRETARY.**

11 *(a) NOTICE TO CLAIMANTS OF AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE*  
12 *FROM RECOGNIZED PERSONS.—Section 5103A of title 38,*  
13 *United States Code, is amended—*

14 *(1) by redesignating subsections (g) through (i)*  
15 *as subsections (i) through (k), respectively;*

16 *(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following*  
17 *new subsections:*

18 *“(g) Upon receipt of an initial claim by a claimant*  
19 *not represented by an accredited person, the Secretary shall*  
20 *provide notice to the claimant that—*

21 *“(1) an accredited person may be able to rep-*  
22 *resent the claimant;*

23 *“(2) a veterans service organization recognized*  
24 *under section 5902 of this title may represent the*  
25 *claimant at no charge to the claimant;*

1           “(3) provides the web address of the online tool  
2           maintained under subsection (h); and

3           “(4) provides the web address of an appropriate  
4           and publicly accessible website of the Department  
5           through which a claimant may report—

6                   “(A) a person, who is not an accredited per-  
7                   son, who represented the claimant; and

8                   “(B) any fee charged by such person for  
9                   such representation.

10          “(h)(1) The Secretary shall maintain an online tool  
11          that allows a claimant to search a list of accredited persons  
12          who represent claimants.

13          “(2) The Secretary shall ensure that such list is cur-  
14          rent at least once each calendar quarter.

15          “(3) The Secretary shall ensure that such tool is easily  
16          accessible to a claimant.”; and

17                (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
18          section:

19          “(l) In this section:

20                “(1) The term ‘accredited person’ means—

21                   “(A) a veterans service organization recog-  
22                   nized under section 5902 of this title; or

23                   “(B) an attorney, agent, or other person  
24                   recognized under section 5904 of this title.

1           “(2) *The term ‘represent’ means to prepare,*  
2           *present, or prosecute a claim under a law adminis-*  
3           *tered by the Secretary on behalf of a claimant.’”.*

4           **(b) ONLINE INFORMATION REGARDING PERSONS THAT**  
5           **ASSIST CLAIMANTS.**—*The Secretary of Veterans Affairs*  
6           *shall include, in each web portal of the Department of Vet-*  
7           *erans Affairs, through which an individual may file a claim*  
8           *for a benefit administered by the Under Secretary for Bene-*  
9           *fits or the Under Secretary for Health, a warning regarding*  
10          *fees an agent or attorney may charge such individual for*  
11          *assistance in filing such claim. Such warning shall include*  
12          *the following:*

13               (1) *A link to the online tool maintained under*  
14               *subsection (h) of section 5103A of such title, as*  
15               *amended by subsection (a).*

16               (2) *A link to the website of the Department de-*  
17               *scribed in subparagraph (D) of section 5103A(f)(1) of*  
18               *such title, as amended by subsection (a).*

19           **(c) REPORT.**—*Not later than 180 days after the date*  
20          *of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—*

21               (1) *complete a review the regulations, processes,*  
22               *and procedures of the Department of Veterans Affairs*  
23               *that pertain to recognition under section 5904 of title*  
24               *38, United States Code;*

1           (2) *develop recommendations for legislative or*  
2           *administrative action to improve such regulations,*  
3           *processes, and procedures; and*

4           (3) *submit to the Committees on Veterans' Af-*  
5           *fairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a re-*  
6           *port containing the findings of the Secretary with re-*  
7           *spect to the review completed under paragraph (1)*  
8           *and the recommendations developed under paragraph*  
9           *(2).*

10 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF**  
11 **PENSION.**

12           *Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is*  
13 *amended by striking "November 30, 2031" and inserting*  
14 *"March 31, 2032".*