

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 3854, with An Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3854

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

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”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ANNUAL RE-**
2 **PORT ON CAUSES OF DEATH AMONG VET-**
3 **ERANS.**

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

7 **“§ 534. Annual report on causes of death among vet-**
8 **erans**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit to
10 the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Rep-
11 resentatives and the Senate an annual report that contains
12 data and information on causes of death among veterans.

13 “(b) ELEMENTS.—Such report shall include—

14 “(1) for each veteran that died during the pe-
15 riod covered by the report an identification of—

16 “(A) whether such veteran had a service-
17 connected disability rated as total;

18 “(B) the primary cause of death;

19 “(C) the secondary cause of death, if appli-
20 cable; and

21 “(D) the manner of death;

22 “(2) for each primary cause of death identified
23 pursuant to paragraph (1), a statement of the total
24 number of veterans that died from such primary
25 cause of death during the period covered by the re-
26 port; and

1 “(3) for each manner of death identified pursu-
2 ant to paragraph (1), a statement of the total num-
3 ber of veterans that died in such manner during the
4 period covered by the report.

5 “(c) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate on the
6 date that is five years after the date of the enactment of
7 the Justice for America’s Veterans and Survivors Act of
8 2025.”.

9 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
10 at the beginning of chapter 5 of such title is amended by
11 inserting after the item relating to section 533 the fol-
12 lowing new item:

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

13 **SEC. 3. PLAN FOR USE OF AUTOMATION TOOLS TO PROC-**
14 **ESS CLAIMS UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY**
15 **THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
17 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
18 erans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’
19 Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives the
20 plan of the Secretary to make available, to the maximum
21 extent practicable, an automation tool described in sub-
22 section (b) to elements of the Department of Veterans Af-
23 fairs for the purpose of processing claims under laws ad-
24 ministered by the Secretary.

1 (b) AUTOMATION TOOL DESCRIBED.—An automa-
2 tion tool described in this subsection is a technology devel-
3 oped for the Compensation Service of the Veterans Bene-
4 fits Administration that—

5 (1) automates the retrieval of the service record
6 or health records of a veteran;

7 (2) compiles evidence relevant to the determina-
8 tion of a claim for benefits under laws administered
9 by the Secretary;

10 (3) provides automated decision support rel-
11 evant to such a determination;

12 (4) automates information sharing between
13 Federal agencies; and

14 (5) assists in generating correspondence regard-
15 ing such a claim.

16 (c) ANALYSIS.—In developing the plan required
17 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall conduct an anal-
18 ysis of each of the following:

19 (1) The feasibility and benefits of the use of an
20 automation tool described in subsection (b) by ele-
21 ments of the Department for the purpose of proc-
22 essing claims under laws administered by the Sec-
23 retary.

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

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

7 (4) The extent to which the technology offices
8 of such elements may need to collaborate with the
9 technology office responsible for developing an auto-
10 mation tool in the course of the development and use
11 of the tool by the element for such purpose.

12 (5) A timeline for modifying and implementing
13 any automation tool for use by such elements for
14 such purpose.

15 (d) PRIORITY.—In providing an automation tool de-
16 scribed in subsection (b) to elements of the Department
17 pursuant to the plan required under subsection (a), the
18 Secretary shall give priority to the following elements:

19 (1) The Pension and Fiduciary Service of the
20 Veterans Benefits Administration.

21 (2) The Education Service of the Veterans Ben-
22 efits Administration.

23 (3) Program offices of the Veterans Benefits
24 Administration, as determined by the Secretary.

25 (4) The Debt Management Center.

1 (5) The Board of Veterans' Appeals.

2 **SEC. 4. OTHER REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO TECH-**
3 **NOLOGY AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
4 **FAIRS.**

5 (a) AUTOMATIC NOTICES REGARDING BENEFITS FOR
6 CERTAIN CHILDREN OF VETERANS.—

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

15 (2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

16 (A) The term “covered situation” means—

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

21 (ii) any educational assistance paid to
22 the child of a veteran under the laws ad-
23 ministered by the Secretary.

1 (B) The term “child” has the meaning
2 given such term in section 101(4)(A)(iii) of title
3 38, United States Code.

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