

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3705

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to require the use of certified mail and plain language in certain debt collection activities.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2017

Ms. PINGREE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to require the use of certified mail and plain language in certain debt collection activities.

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 Fair Debt  
5 Notice Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. USE OF CERTIFIED MAIL AND PLAIN LANGUAGE RE-**  
7 **QUIRED IN CERTAIN DEBT COLLECTION AC-**  
8 **TIVITIES.**

9       (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the  
10 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans

1 Affairs shall amend section 1.911 of title 38, Code of Fed-  
2 eral Regulations, to require that certified mail be used to  
3 send any of the following:

4 (1) A written demand from the Secretary to a  
5 debtor under subsection (b) of such section.

6 (2) A request for a waiver from a debtor to the  
7 Secretary under subsection (c)(2) of such section.

8 (3) A notification from the Secretary to a debt-  
9 or under subsection (d) or (e) of such section.

10 (b) PLAIN LANGUAGE REQUIRED.—The Secretary  
11 shall write the following in plain language:

12 (1) Any demand described in subsection (a)(1),  
13 which shall include an explanation of why the debtor  
14 owes money to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

15 (2) Any notification described in subsection  
16 (a)(3), which shall include options available to the  
17 debtor.

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