

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
OFFERED BY MR. NEHLS OF TEXAS**

Insert at the appropriate place the following new section:

1 **SEC. _____ . CLAIMS FOR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY**
2 **COMPENSATION.**

3 (a) TRAINING.—

4 (1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 60 days
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
6 retary of Veterans Affairs shall improve and provide
7 additional training for employees of the Department
8 of Veterans Affairs with respect to processing claims
9 for benefits under chapter 13 of title 38, United
10 States Code.

11 (2) MATTERS INCLUDED.—In providing train-
12 ing pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary shall
13 ensure that the following matters are included:

14 (A) How to accurately process a claim
15 under chapter 13 of title 38, United States
16 Code, in cases where—

17 (i) the claim relates to a veteran who
18 had, or may have had, one or more service-

1 connected disabilities at the time of death;
2 and

3 (ii) the death certificate for the vet-
4 eran—

5 (I) identifies COVID-19 as the
6 principal or contributory cause of
7 death; and

8 (II) does not clearly identify a
9 disability that was, or could have
10 been, a service-connected disability as
11 the principal or contributory cause of
12 death.

13 (B) Additional guidance for employees who
14 process claims with respect to applying the re-
15 quirement under section 5103A(d) of title 38,
16 United States Code, to order a medical exam-
17 ination or opinion in order to determine if a
18 service-connected disability was the principal or
19 contributory cause of death of a veteran.

20 (b) FUNDING.—In addition to amounts otherwise
21 available, there is appropriated to the Department of Vet-
22 erans Affairs for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in
23 the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$500,000, to re-

- 1 main available until September 30, 2022, for carrying out
- 2 subsection (a).

