

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 3967
OFFERED BY MR. BOST OF ILLINOIS**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. FEASIBILITY AND ADVISABILITY OF CERTAIN**
2 **PROPOSED CHANGES TO PRESUMPTIONS OF**
3 **SERVICE CONNECTION RELATING TO TOXIC**
4 **EXPOSURE.**

5 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
6 conduct a study on the feasibility and advisability of im-
7 plementing the bill H.R. 3967 of the 117th Congress, as
8 introduced, and the amendments proposed to be made by
9 that bill, including with respect to the following:

10 (1) The estimated number of new beneficiaries
11 who would be awarded disability compensation bene-
12 fits under chapter 11 of title 38, United States
13 Code.

14 (2) The estimated increase in the average dis-
15 ability rating for current disability compensation
16 beneficiaries.

17 (3) The estimated number of new beneficiaries
18 who would be awarded dependency and indemnity

1 compensation benefits under chapter 13 of title 38,
2 United States Code.

3 (4) The estimated number of additional dis-
4 ability compensation claims the Department of Vet-
5 erans Affairs would receive.

6 (5) The impact on the timely processing of dis-
7 ability compensation claims, including the inventory
8 of claims pending more than 125 days, and antici-
9 pated overtime resources to adjudicate disability
10 compensation claims.

11 (6) The impact on the timely processing of de-
12 pendency and indemnity compensation claims, in-
13 cluding the inventory of claims pending more than
14 125 days, and anticipated overtime resources to ad-
15 judicate dependency and indemnity compensation
16 claims.

17 (7) How many additional dependency and in-
18 demnity compensation claims the Department would
19 anticipate receiving.

20 (8) The impact of the increased number of
21 beneficiaries for the Veteran Readiness and Employ-
22 ment program under chapter 31 of title 38, United
23 States Code, and how those participants will impact
24 the 1 to 125 counselor-to-veteran ratio.

1 (9) The impact the inventory of disability com-
2 pensation claims and overtime resources described in
3 paragraph (5) would have on the adjudication of
4 educational assistance under chapters 30, 33, and
5 35 of title 38, United States Code, and chapter
6 1606 of title 10, United States Code.

7 (10) The estimated number of new enrollees in
8 the health care system of the Department pursuant
9 to section 1705 of title 38, United States Code.

10 (11) The impact on current enrollees in the
11 health care system of the Department.

12 (12) The estimated number of new active users
13 of the health care system of the Department.

14 (13) The estimated impact on wait times in
15 medical facilities of the Department and in medical
16 facilities in the community pursuant to sections
17 1703 and 1703A of title 38, United States Code.

18 (14) The estimated impact on the annual num-
19 ber of appointments in the health care system of the
20 Department.

21 (15) The estimated impact on the annual num-
22 ber of community care referrals.

23 (16) The estimate on utilization rates and reli-
24 ance for new active users of and enrollees in the
25 health care system of the Department.

1 (17) The resources, infrastructure, and infor-
2 mation technology needed for such implementation.

3 (18) The number of full-time equivalent em-
4 ployees needed for such implementation,
5 disaggregated by the Veterans Benefits Administra-
6 tion, the Veterans Health Administration, the Na-
7 tional Cemetery Administration, and the Office of
8 the Secretary.

9 (19) The views and opinions of the Secretary
10 with respect to such feasibility and advisability.

11 (b) REVIEW BY OMB.—The Director of the Office
12 of Management and Budget shall review the study under
13 subsection (a).

14 (c) REPORT.—After the review required under sub-
15 section (b), and not later than 90 days after the date of
16 the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to
17 the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Rep-
18 resentatives and the Senate a report containing the study
19 under subsection (a).

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the feasibility and advisability of certain changes to presumptions of service connection relating to toxic exposure.”.

