

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 2724
OFFERED BY M . _____**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PROCESSING OF
2 CLAIMS BY VETERANS FOR COMPENSATION
3 FOR CERTAIN MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS
4 BASED ON MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1166 of title 38, United
6 States Code, is amended—

7 (1) by striking “or air service” both places it
8 appears and inserting “air, or space service”;

9 (2) in subsection (a)—

10 (A) in the heading, by striking “IN GEN-
11 ERAL” and inserting “PROCESSING”;

12 (B) by inserting “(1)” before “The Sec-
13 retary”; and

14 (C) by adding at the end the following new
15 paragraphs:

16 “(2) A peer support specialist of the Department—

17 “(A) may advocate for a veteran in the course
18 of a claim described in paragraph (1); and

1 “(B) may not participate in the adjudication of
2 such a claim.”;

3 (3) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as
4 subsections (c) and (d), respectively;

5 (4) by inserting, after subsection (a), the fol-
6 lowing new subsection (b):

7 “(b) REFERRALS TO MST COORDINATORS.—The
8 Secretary shall include, in forms for claims described in
9 subsection (a), an option for a veteran to elect to be re-
10 ferred to a military sexual trauma coordinator of the Vet-
11 erans Health Administration at the facility of the Depart-
12 ment nearest to the residence of such veteran.”; and

13 (5) in subsection (c), as redesignated—

14 (A) by inserting “(1)” before “The Sec-
15 retary”; and

16 (B) by adding at the end the following new
17 paragraphs:

18 “(2) The Secretary shall ensure that peer support
19 specialists of the Department receive annual training on
20 how to provide peer support regarding military sexual
21 trauma.

22 “(3) The Secretary shall provide annual training, re-
23 garding the processing of claims described in subsection
24 (a), to the following individuals:

1 “(A) Military sexual trauma coordinators of the
2 Veterans Health Administration.

3 “(B) Peer support specialists of the Depart-
4 ment.”;

5 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

6 (1) SECTION HEADING.—The heading of such
7 section is amended by striking “**Specialized**
8 **teams to evaluate claims**” and inserting
9 “**Claims**”.

10 (2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections
11 at the beginning of chapter 11 of such title is
12 amended by striking the item relating to section
13 1166 and inserting the following:

“1166. Claims involving military sexual trauma.”.

