

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7188

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain improvements relating to the transmission of disability benefits questionnaire data to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 21, 2022

Mr. NEHLS (for himself and Mr. BOST) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain improvements relating to the transmission of disability benefits questionnaire data to 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 Depart-
5 ment of Veterans Affairs Disability Benefit Question-
6 naires Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MODERNIZATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
2 **AFFAIRS DISABILITY BENEFIT QUESTION-**
3 **NAIRES.**

4 (a) **REQUIREMENT FOR TRANSMISSION OF CERTAIN**
5 **INFORMATION IN MACHINE-READABLE FORMAT.—**

6 (1) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 180 days
7 after enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall re-
8 quire all disability benefit questionnaire data col-
9 lected in the course of medical disability examina-
10 tions made by persons other than employees of the
11 Department of Veterans Affairs under section 305
12 of the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 1996
13 (Public Law 104–275; 38 U.S.C. 5101 note) to be
14 transmitted to the Department in a machine-read-
15 able format.

16 (2) **ISSUANCE OF STANDARDS.**—Not later than
17 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
18 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall issue stand-
19 ards for the transmission of disability benefit ques-
20 tionnaire data in a machine-readable format as re-
21 quired under paragraph (1).

22 (b) **PLAN FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM**
23 **MODIFICATION.**—Not later than 180 days after the date
24 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
25 to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and
26 House of Representatives a plan to modify the information

1 technology systems and processes of the Department to
2 enable a non-Department health care professional selected
3 by a claimant to transmit to the Department, in a ma-
4 chine-readable format, disability benefit questionnaire
5 data, including complete disability benefit questionnaires
6 rather than partial questionnaires or individual elements
7 of medical evidence.

8 (c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The
9 Secretary shall make publicly available on the internet
10 website of the Department referred to in section 5101(d)
11 of title 38, United States Code—

12 (1) a description of the standards issued under
13 subsection (a)(2); and

14 (2) the plan required under subsection (b).

15 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) The term “claimant” has the meaning given
17 such term in section 5100 of title 38, United States
18 Code.

19 (2) The term “machine-readable” has the
20 meaning given such term in section 3502(18) of title
21 44, United States Code.

○