

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

TO H.R. 4461

OFFERED BY Mr. *Rosendale*

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **TITLE I—MODERNIZATION OF**  
2 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**  
3 **AFFAIRS DISABILITY BENEFIT**  
4 **QUESTIONNAIRES ACT**

5 **SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.**

6 This title may be cited as the “Modernization of De-  
7 partment of Veterans Affairs Disability Benefit Question-  
8 naires Act”.

9 **SEC. 102. MODERNIZATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**  
10 **AFFAIRS DISABILITY BENEFIT QUESTION-**  
11 **NAIRES.**

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

14 (1) **REQUIREMENT.—**Not later than 180 days  
15 after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-  
16 erans Affairs shall require all disability benefit ques-  
17 tionnaire data collected in the course of medical dis-  
18 ability examinations made by covered non-Depart-

1       ment providers to be transmitted to the Department  
2       in a machine-readable format.

3           (2) ISSUANCE OF STANDARDS.—Not later than  
4       90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
5       the Secretary shall issue standards for the trans-  
6       mission of disability benefit questionnaire data in a  
7       machine-readable format as required under para-  
8       graph (1).

9           (3) UPDATES.—In making updates to disability  
10      benefit questionnaires after the date specified in  
11      paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

12           (A) ensure that the updates are made in a  
13      manner that allows for the data collected under  
14      the questionnaires to be in a machine-readable  
15      format as of the date on which the update goes  
16      into effect; and

17           (B) not later than 30 days before an up-  
18      date goes into effect, notify the covered non-De-  
19      partment providers (or their employers) de-  
20      scribed in such paragraph of such updates.

21           (b) PLAN FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM  
22      MODIFICATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
23      of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit  
24      to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and  
25      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, as-  
3 signed to or selected by a claimant, to transmit to the De-  
4 partment, in a machine-readable format, disability benefit  
5 questionnaire data, including complete disability benefit  
6 questionnaires rather than partial questionnaires or ele-  
7 ments 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 “covered non-Department pro-  
20 vider” means a health care provider who—

21 (A) is not an employee of the Department  
22 of Veterans Affairs; and

23 (B) pursuant to a contract under section  
24 504 of the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act  
25 of 1996 (Public Law 104–275; 38 U.S.C. 5101

1           note), examines a claimant for a medical dis-  
2           ability.

3           (3) The term “machine-readable” has the  
4           meaning given such term in section 3502 of title 44,  
5           United States Code.

6   **TITLE II—EXPEDITING TEM-**  
7   **PORARY RATINGS FOR VET-**  
8   **ERANS ACT**

9   **SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.**

10          This title may be cited as the “Expediting Temporary  
11          Ratings for Veterans Act”.

12   **SEC. 202. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AUTO-**  
13                   **MATIC PROCESSING OF CERTAIN CLAIMS**  
14                   **FOR TEMPORARY DISABILITY RATINGS.**

15          (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the  
16          date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-  
17          erans Affairs shall modify the information technology sys-  
18          tems of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide for  
19          the automatic processing of claims for temporary disability  
20          ratings for veterans described in section 1156(a)(1)(C) of  
21          title 38, United States Code.

22          (b) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**—In providing for  
23          the automatic processing of claims as required under sub-  
24          section (a), the Secretary shall ensure that—

1 (1) medical evidence is obtained from the cor-  
2 porate data warehouse of the Department;

3 (2) employees of the Department continue to  
4 determine whether a veteran is eligible for a tem-  
5 porary disability rating under section 1156(a)(1)(C)  
6 of title 38, United States Code; and

7 (3) claims may be processed manually if the  
8 evidence of record is not sufficient to decide the  
9 claim or if the medical evidence is provided in a for-  
10 mat that is not compatible with the system devel-  
11 oped under subsection (a).

12 **SEC. 203. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN HOUSING LOAN**  
13 **FEES.**

14 The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38,  
15 United States Code, is amended by striking “November  
16 14, 2031” each place it appears and inserting “November  
17 16, 2031”.

