

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 7816
OFFERED BY MR. BOST OF ILLINOIS**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Clear Communication
3 for Veterans Claims Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF NOTICES THAT THE
5 SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SENDS
6 TO CLAIMANTS.**

7 (a) AGREEMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
9 erans Affairs shall seek to enter into an agreement with
10 an FFRDC for an assessment of notices that the Sec-
11 retary sends to claimants.

12 (b) ASSESSMENT.—An FFRDC that enters to an
13 agreement under subsection (a) shall submit to the Sec-
14 retary a written assessment of such notices. The assess-
15 ment shall include the following:

16 (1) The determination of the FFRDC, made in
17 consultation with covered entities, whether each such

1 notice may be feasibly altered to reduce paper con-
2 sumption by, and costs to, the Federal Government.

3 (2) The recommendations of the FFRDC re-
4 garding how the Secretary may make such notices
5 clearer to claimants, better organized, and more con-
6 cise.

7 (c) REPORT; IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 90
8 days after the Secretary receives the assessment under
9 subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

10 (1) submit to the Committees on Veterans' Af-
11 fairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a
12 copy of such assessment; and

13 (2) implement the recommendations in the as-
14 sessment that are in compliance with the laws ad-
15 ministered by the Secretary.

16 (d) DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—The Sec-
17 retary shall complete the implementation of such rec-
18 ommendations pursuant to subsection (c)(2) by not later
19 than one year after the date on which the Secretary com-
20 mences such implementation.

21 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) The term “FFRDC” means a federally
23 funded research and development center.

24 (2) The term “covered entities” includes—

25 (A) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

1 (B) an expert in laws administered by the
2 Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

3 (C) a veterans service organization recog-
4 nized under section 5902 of title 38, United
5 States Code; and

6 (D) an entity that advocates for veterans.

7 (3) The terms “claimant” and “notice” have
8 the meanings given such terms in section 5100 of
9 title 38, United States Code.

10 **SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN HOUSING LOAN FEES.**

11 The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38,
12 United States Code, is amended by striking “November
13 15, 2031” each place it appears and inserting “November
14 29, 2031”.

