

[COMMITTEE PRINT]

[Reflecting the actions of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs on November 29, 2023]

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5870

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the processing of claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the transparency of actions of Board of Veterans' Appeals, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the processing of claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the transparency of actions of Board of Veterans' Appeals, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Veteran Appeals
3 Transparency Act of 2024”.

4 **SEC. 2. OPTIONS OF CLAIMANTS FOR BENEFITS UNDER**
5 **LAWS ADMINISTERED BY SECRETARY OF**
6 **VETERANS AFFAIRS FOLLOWING DECISION**
7 **BY AGENCY OF ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.**

8 Section 5104C(a) of title 38, United States Code, is
9 amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “any of the
11 following” and inserting “one of the following”; and

12 (2) in paragraph (2)(B)—

13 (A) by striking “Nothing in this subsection
14 shall prohibit a claimant from taking” and in-
15 serting “A claimant may take”;

16 (B) by striking “in succession”; and

17 (C) by striking the period and inserting
18 “if—”; and

19 (D) by adding at the end the following new
20 clauses:

21 “(i) the claimant takes one such action at a
22 time; and

23 “(ii) any such action is taken in response to,
24 and not later than one year after, the date of the
25 most recent decision on the claim made by the agen-
26 cy of original jurisdiction”.

1 **SEC. 3. BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS PUBLICATION OF**
2 **DATES OF DOCKET ACTIVITY.**

3 Section 7107 of title 38, United States Code, is
4 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
5 section:

6 “(f) PUBLICATION OF EXPECTED ACTIONS.—(1) On
7 a weekly basis, for each docket, the Board shall publish,
8 on a website of the Department, notice of the docket dates
9 of the cases assigned to a Board member for a decision
10 for that week.

11 “(2) Each notice published under paragraph (1) shall
12 include a statement that an assignment described in such
13 paragraph does not require the Board to issue a decision
14 regarding the case during such week.

15 “(3) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a case—

16 “(A) that has been advanced under subsection
17 (b); or

18 “(B) remanded by the United States Court of
19 Appeals for Veterans Claims.”.