

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 1578  
OFFERED BY MR. TAKANO OF CALIFORNIA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Claims Edu-  
3 cation Act of 2025”.

**4 SEC. 2. PROMOTION OF ASSISTANCE FROM PERSONS REC-  
5 OGNIZED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS  
6 AFFAIRS FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO FILE CER-  
7 TAIN CLAIMS UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED  
8 BY THE SECRETARY.**

9       (a) NOTICE TO CLAIMANTS OF AVAILABLE ASSIST-  
10 ANCE FROM RECOGNIZED PERSONS.—Section 5103A of  
11 title 38, United States Code, is amended—

12           (1) by redesignating subsections (g) through (i)  
13 as subsections (i) through (k), respectively;

14           (2) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-  
15 lowing new subsections:

16       “(g) Upon receipt of an initial claim by a claimant  
17 not represented by an accredited person, the Secretary  
18 shall provide notice to the claimant that—

1 “(1) an accredited person may be able to rep-  
2 resent the claimant;

3 “(2) a veterans service organization recognized  
4 under section 5902 of this title may represent the  
5 claimant at no charge to the claimant;

6 “(3) provides the web address of the online tool  
7 maintained under subsection (h); and

8 “(4) provides the web address of an appropriate  
9 and publicly accessible website of the Department  
10 through which a claimant may report—

11 “(A) a person, who is not an accredited  
12 person, who represented the claimant; and

13 “(B) any fee charged by such person for  
14 such representation.

15 “(h)(1) The Secretary shall maintain an online tool  
16 that allows a claimant to search a list of accredited per-  
17 sons who represent claimants.

18 “(2) The Secretary shall ensure that such list is cur-  
19 rent at least once each calendar quarter.

20 “(3) The Secretary shall ensure that such tool is eas-  
21 ily accessible to a claimant.”; and

22 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
23 section:

24 “(l) In this section:

25 “(1) The term ‘accredited person’ means—

1 “(A) a veterans service organization recog-  
2 nized under section 5902 of this title; or

3 “(B) an attorney, agent, or other person  
4 recognized under section 5904 of this title.

5 “(2) The term ‘represent’ means to prepare,  
6 present, or prosecute a claim under a law adminis-  
7 tered by the Secretary on behalf of a claimant.”.

8 (b) ONLINE INFORMATION REGARDING PERSONS  
9 THAT ASSIST CLAIMANTS.—The Secretary of Veterans  
10 Affairs shall include, in each web portal of the Department  
11 of Veterans Affairs, through which an individual may file  
12 a claim for a benefit administered by the Under Secretary  
13 for Benefits or the Under Secretary for Health, a warning  
14 regarding fees an agent or attorney may charge such indi-  
15 vidual for assistance in filing such claim. Such warning  
16 shall include the following:

17 (1) A link to the online maintained under sub-  
18 section (h) of section 5103A of such title, as amend-  
19 ed by subsection (a).

20 (2) A link to the website of the Department de-  
21 scribed in subparagraph (D) of section 5103A(f)(1)  
22 of such title, as amended by subsection (a).

23 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
24 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

1           (1) complete a review the regulations, processes,  
2           and procedures of the Department of Veterans Af-  
3           fairs that pertain to recognition under section 5904  
4           of title 38, United States Code;

5           (2) develop recommendations for legislative or  
6           administrative action to improve such regulations,  
7           processes, and procedures; and

8           (3) submit to the Committees on Veterans' Af-  
9           fairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a  
10          report containing the findings of the Secretary with  
11          respect to the review completed under paragraph (1)  
12          and the recommendations developed under para-  
13          graph (2).

14   **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF**  
15                   **PENSION.**

16          Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code,  
17   is amended by striking "November 30, 2031" and insert-  
18   ing "March 31, 2032".

