

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**  
**TO H.R. 3854**  
**OFFERED BY Mr. Bost**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the  
following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Modernizing All Vet-  
3 erans and Survivors Claims Processing Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ANNUAL RE-**  
**5 PORT ON CAUSES OF DEATH AMONG VET-**  
**6 ERANS.**

7       (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 5 of title  
8 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end  
9 the following new section:

**10 “§ 534. Annual report on causes of death among vet-**  
**11 erans**

12       “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit to  
13 the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Rep-  
14 resentatives and the Senate an annual report that contains  
15 data and information on causes of death among veterans.

16       “(b) ELEMENTS.—Such report shall include—

17               “(1) for each veteran that died during the pe-  
18 riod covered by the report an identification of—

1           “(A) whether such veteran had a service-  
2           connected disability rated as total;

3           “(B) the primary cause of death;

4           “(C) the secondary cause of death, if appli-  
5           cable; and

6           “(D) the manner of death;

7           “(2) for each primary cause of death identified  
8           pursuant to paragraph (1), a statement of the total  
9           number of veterans that died from such primary  
10          cause of death during the period covered by the re-  
11          port; and

12          “(3) for each manner of death identified pursu-  
13          ant to paragraph (1), a statement of the total num-  
14          ber of veterans that died in such manner during the  
15          period covered by the report.

16          “(e) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate on the  
17          date that is five years after the date of the enactment of  
18          the Justice for America’s Veterans and Survivors Act of  
19          2025.”.

20          (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
21          at the beginning of chapter 5 of such title is amended by  
22          inserting after the item relating to section 533 the fol-  
23          lowing new item:

          “534. Annual report on causes of death among veterans”.

1 **SEC. 3. PLAN FOR USE OF AUTOMATION TOOLS TO PROC-**  
2 **ESS CLAIMS UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY**  
3 **THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the  
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-  
6 erans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans'  
7 Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives the  
8 plan of the Secretary to make available, to the maximum  
9 extent practicable, an automation tool described in sub-  
10 section (b) to elements of the Department of Veterans Af-  
11 fairs for the purpose of processing claims under laws ad-  
12 ministered by the Secretary.

13 (b) AUTOMATION TOOL DESCRIBED.—An automa-  
14 tion tool described in this subsection is a technology devel-  
15 oped for the Compensation Service of the Veterans Bene-  
16 fits Administration that—

17 (1) automates the retrieval of the service record  
18 or health records of a veteran;

19 (2) compiles evidence relevant to the determina-  
20 tion of a claim for benefits under laws administered  
21 by the Secretary;

22 (3) provides automated decision support rel-  
23 evant to such a determination;

24 (4) automates information sharing between  
25 Federal agencies; and

1 (5) assists in generating correspondence regard-  
2 ing such a claim.

3 (c) ANALYSIS.—In developing the plan required  
4 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall conduct an anal-  
5 ysis of each of the following:

6 (1) The feasibility and benefits of the use of an  
7 automation tool described in subsection (b) by ele-  
8 ments of the Department for the purpose of proc-  
9 essing claims under laws administered by the Sec-  
10 retary.

11 (2) Any modification to an existing automation  
12 tool that could render such tool usable for such pur-  
13 pose by such an element.

14 (3) Any requirement of any such element per-  
15 taining to such purpose that cannot be addressed by  
16 using an automation tool.

17 (4) The extent to which the technology offices  
18 of such elements may need to collaborate with the  
19 technology office responsible for developing an auto-  
20 mation tool in the course of the development and use  
21 of the tool by the element for such purpose.

22 (5) A timeline for modifying and implementing  
23 any automation tool for use by such elements for  
24 such purpose.

1 (d) PRIORITY.—In providing an automation tool de-  
2 scribed in subsection (b) to elements of the Department  
3 pursuant to the plan required under subsection (a), the  
4 Secretary shall give priority to the following elements:

5 (1) The Pension and Fiduciary Service of the  
6 Veterans Benefits Administration.

7 (2) The Education Service of the Veterans Ben-  
8 efits Administration.

9 (3) Program offices of the Veterans Benefits  
10 Administration, as determined by the Secretary.

11 (4) The Debt Management Center.

12 (5) The Board of Veterans' Appeals.

13 **SEC. 4. OTHER REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO TECH-**  
14 **NOLOGY AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**  
15 **FAIRS.**

16 (a) AUTOMATIC NOTICES REGARDING BENEFITS FOR  
17 CERTAIN CHILDREN OF VETERANS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year  
19 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
20 retary of Veterans Affairs shall implement policies,  
21 processes, and technological capabilities, including in  
22 the National Work Queue (or successor system), to  
23 ensure that, in the case of any covered situation, a  
24 claims processors is made aware of, and assigned to  
25 address, such covered situation.

1 (2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

2 (A) The term “covered situation” means—

3 (i) any increase in the amount of de-  
4 pendency compensation paid to a bene-  
5 ficiary for a child under the laws adminis-  
6 tered by the Secretary; and

7 (ii) any educational assistance paid to  
8 the child of a veteran under the laws ad-  
9 ministered by the Secretary.

10 (B) The term “child” has the meaning  
11 given such term in section 101(4)(A)(iii) of title  
12 38, United States Code.

13 (b) CORRECT LABELING OF DOCUMENTS.—Not later  
14 than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
15 the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’  
16 Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a plan  
17 to ensure that documents in the Veterans Benefits Man-  
18 agement System (or any successor system) are correctly  
19 labeled when such documents are uploaded, including  
20 when such documents are labeled using automation tools.

1   **SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF**  
2                   **PENSION.**

3       Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code,  
4   is amended by striking “November 30, 2031” and insert-  
5   ing “January 31, 2032”.

