

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 2423
OFFERED BY MR. RUNYAN OF NEW JERSEY**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. IMPROVEMENTS TO AUTHORITY FOR PER-**
2 **FORMANCE OF MEDICAL DISABILITIES EX-**
3 **AMINATIONS BY CONTRACT PHYSICIANS.**

4 (a) EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY AUTHORITY.—Sub-
5 section (c) of section 704 of the Veterans Benefits Act
6 of 2003 (38 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended by striking
7 “December 31, 2013” and inserting “December 31,
8 2016”.

9 (b) LICENSURE OF CONTRACT PHYSICIANS.—

10 (1) TEMPORARY AUTHORITY.—Such section
11 704 is further amended—

12 (A) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
13 section (e); and

14 (B) by inserting after subsection (c) the
15 following new subsection (d):

16 “(d) LICENSURE OF CONTRACT PHYSICIANS.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any law
18 regarding the licensure of physicians, a physician de-

1 scribed in paragraph (2) may conduct an examina-
2 tion pursuant to a contract entered into under sub-
3 section (b) at any location in any State, the District
4 of Columbia, or a Commonwealth, territory, or pos-
5 session of the United States, so long as the examina-
6 tion is within the scope of the authorized duties
7 under such contract.

8 “(2) PHYSICIAN DESCRIBED.—A physician de-
9 scribed in this paragraph is a physician who—

10 “(A) has a current license to practice the
11 health care profession of the physician; and

12 “(B) is performing authorized duties for
13 the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to
14 a contract entered into under subsection (b).”.

15 (2) PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 504 of the Vet-
16 erans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 1996 (38
17 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended—

18 (A) by redesignating subsections (c) and
19 (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

20 (B) by inserting after subsection (b) the
21 following new subsection (c):

22 “(c) LICENSURE OF CONTRACT PHYSICIANS.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any law
24 regarding the licensure of physicians, a physician de-
25 scribed in paragraph (2) may conduct an examina-

1 tion pursuant to a contract entered into under sub-
2 section (a) at any location in any State, the District
3 of Columbia, or a Commonwealth, territory, or pos-
4 session of the United States, so long as the examina-
5 tion is within the scope of the authorized duties
6 under such contract.

7 “(2) PHYSICIAN DESCRIBED.—A physician de-
8 scribed in this paragraph is a physician who—

9 “(A) has a current license to practice the
10 health care profession of the physician; and

11 “(B) is performing authorized duties for
12 the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to
13 a contract entered into under subsection (a).”.

14 (c) EXPANSION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—Subsection (b)
15 of such section 504 is amended to read as follows:

16 “(b) LOCATIONS.—

17 “(1) NUMBER.—The Secretary may carry out
18 the pilot program under this section through not
19 more than 15 regional offices of the Department of
20 Veterans Affairs.

21 “(2) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall select
22 the regional offices under paragraph (1) by ana-
23 lyzing appropriate data to determine the regional of-
24 fices that require support. Such appropriate data
25 shall include—

1 “(A) the number of backlogged claims;

2 “(B) the total pending case workload;

3 “(C) the length of time cases have been
4 pending;

5 “(D) the accuracy of completed cases; and

6 “(E) the overall timeliness of completed
7 cases.

8 “(3) ANNUAL ANALYSIS.—The Secretary shall
9 carry out the data analysis of the regional offices
10 under paragraph (2) during each year in which the
11 program under this section is carried out to deter-
12 mine the regional offices selected under paragraph
13 (1) for such year.”.

14 **SEC. 2. PRIORITY FOR PROCESSING CLAIMS OF THE DE-**
15 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 51 of title
17 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
18 the following new section:

19 **“§ 5109C. Priority for processing claims**

20 “(a) PRIORITY.—In processing claims for compensa-
21 tion under this chapter, the Secretary shall provide the
22 following claimants with priority over other claimants:

23 “(1) Veterans who have attained the age of 70.

24 “(2) Veterans who are terminally ill.

25 “(3) Veterans with life-threatening illnesses.

1 “(2)(A) If a veteran otherwise eligible for payment
2 of pension under section 1513 or 1521 of this title or the
3 spouse of such veteran disposes of covered resources for
4 less than fair market value on or after the look-back date
5 described in subparagraph (C)(i), the Secretary shall deny
6 or discontinue the payment of pension to such veteran
7 under section 1513 or 1521 of this title, as the case may
8 be, for months during the period beginning on the date
9 described in subparagraph (D) and equal to the number
10 of months calculated as provided in subparagraph (E).

11 “(B)(i) For purposes of this paragraph, a covered re-
12 source is any resource that was a part of the corpus of
13 the estate of the veteran or, if the veteran has a spouse,
14 the corpus of the estates of the veteran and of the vet-
15 eran’s spouse, that the Secretary considers that under all
16 the circumstances, if the veteran or spouse had not dis-
17 posed of such resource, it would be reasonable that the
18 resource (or some portion of the resource) be consumed
19 for the veteran’s maintenance.

20 “(ii) For purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary
21 may consider, in accordance with regulations the Sec-
22 retary shall prescribe, a transfer of an asset (including a
23 transfer of an asset to an annuity, trust, or other financial
24 instrument or investment) a disposal of a covered resource
25 for less than fair market value if such transfer reduces

1 the amount in the corpus of the estate of the veteran or,
2 if the veteran has a spouse, the corpus of the estates of
3 the veteran and of the veteran's spouse, that the Secretary
4 considers, under all the circumstances, would be reason-
5 able to be consumed for the veteran's maintenance.

6 “(C)(i) The look-back date described in this clause
7 is a date that is 36 months before the date described in
8 clause (ii).

9 “(ii) The date described in this clause is the date on
10 which the veteran applies for pension under section 1513
11 or 1521 of this title or, if later, the date on which the
12 veteran (or the spouse of the veteran) disposes of covered
13 resources for less than fair market value.

14 “(D) The date described in this subparagraph is the
15 first day of the first month in or after which covered re-
16 sources were disposed of for less than fair market value
17 and which does not occur in any other period of ineligi-
18 bility under this paragraph.

19 “(E) The number of months calculated under this
20 subparagraph shall be equal to—

21 “(i) the total, cumulative uncompensated value
22 of all covered resources so disposed of by the veteran
23 (or the spouse of the veteran) on or after the look-
24 back date described in subparagraph (C)(i); divided
25 by

1 “(ii) the maximum amount of monthly pension
2 that is payable to a veteran under section 1513 or
3 1521 of this title, including the maximum amount of
4 increased pension payable under such sections on ac-
5 count of family members, but not including any
6 amount of pension payable under such sections be-
7 cause a veteran is in need of regular aid and attend-
8 ance or is permanently housebound,
9 rounded, in the case of any fraction, to the nearest whole
10 number, but shall not in any case exceed 36 months.”;

11 (2) in subsection (b)—

12 (A) by inserting “(1)” before “The Sec-
13 retary”; and

14 (B) by adding at the end the following new
15 paragraph:

16 “(2)(A) If a veteran otherwise eligible for payment
17 of increased pension under subsection (c), (d), (e), or (f)
18 of section 1521 of this title on account of a child, the
19 spouse of the veteran, or the child disposes of covered re-
20 sources for less than fair market value on or after the
21 look-back date described in subparagraph (C)(i), the Sec-
22 retary shall deny or discontinue payment of such increased
23 pension for months during the period beginning on the
24 date described in subparagraph (D) and equal to the num-
25 ber of months calculated as provided in subparagraph (E).

1 “(B)(i) For purposes of this paragraph, a covered re-
2 source is any resource that was a part of the corpus of
3 the estate of the child that the Secretary considers that
4 under all the circumstances, if the veteran, the spouse of
5 the veteran, or the child had not disposed of such resource,
6 it would be reasonable that the resource (or some portion
7 of the resource) be consumed for the child’s maintenance.

8 “(ii) For purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary
9 may consider, in accordance with regulations the Sec-
10 retary shall prescribe, a transfer of an asset (including a
11 transfer of an asset to an annuity, trust, or other financial
12 instrument or investment) a disposal of a covered resource
13 for less than fair market value if such transfer reduces
14 the amount in the corpus of the estate of the child that
15 the Secretary considers, under all the circumstances,
16 would be reasonable to be consumed for the child’s mainte-
17 nance.

18 “(C)(i) The look-back date described in this clause
19 is a date that is 36 months before the date described in
20 clause (ii).

21 “(ii) The date described in this clause is the date on
22 which the veteran applies for payment of increased pen-
23 sion under subsection (c), (d), (e), or (f) of section 1521
24 of this title on account of a child or, if later, the date
25 on which the veteran, the spouse of the veteran, or the

1 child disposes of covered resources for less than fair mar-
2 ket value.

3 “(D) The date described in this subparagraph is the
4 first day of the first month in or after which covered re-
5 sources were disposed of for less than fair market value
6 and which does not occur in any other period of ineligi-
7 bility under this paragraph.

8 “(E) The number of months calculated under this
9 subparagraph shall be equal to—

10 “(i) the total, cumulative uncompensated value
11 of all covered resources so disposed of by the vet-
12 eran, the spouse of the veteran, or the child on or
13 after the look-back date described in subparagraph
14 (C)(i); divided by

15 “(ii) the maximum amount of increased month-
16 ly pension that is payable to a veteran under sub-
17 section (c), (d), (e), or (f) of section 1521 of this
18 title on account of a child,

19 rounded, in the case of any fraction, to the nearest whole
20 number, but shall not in any case exceed 36 months.”;
21 and

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

24 “(c)(1) The Secretary shall not deny or discontinue
25 payment of pension under section 1513 or 1521 of this

1 title or payment of increased pension under subsection (c),
2 (d), (e), or (f) of section 1521 of this title on account of
3 a child by reason of the application of subsection (a)(2)
4 or (b)(2) of this section to the disposal of resources by
5 an individual to the extent that—

6 “(A) a satisfactory showing is made to the Sec-
7 retary (in accordance with regulations promulgated
8 by the Secretary) that all resources disposed of for
9 less than fair market value have been returned to
10 the individual who disposed of the resources; or

11 “(B) the Secretary determines, under proce-
12 dures established by the Secretary, that the denial
13 or discontinuance of payment would work an undue
14 hardship as determined on the basis of criteria es-
15 tablished by the Secretary.

16 “(2) At the time a veteran applies for pension under
17 section 1513 or 1521 of this title or increased pension
18 under subsection (c), (d), (e), or (f) of section 1521 of
19 this title on account of a child, and at such other times
20 as the Secretary considers appropriate, the Secretary
21 shall—

22 “(A) inform such veteran of the provisions of
23 subsections (a)(2) and (b)(2) providing for a period
24 of ineligibility for payment of pension under such
25 sections for individuals who make certain disposi-

1 tions of resources for less than fair market value;
2 and

3 “(B) obtain from such veteran information
4 which may be used in determining whether or not a
5 period of ineligibility for such payments would be re-
6 quired by reason of such subsections.”.

7 (b) SURVIVING SPOUSES AND CHILDREN.—Section
8 1543 of such title is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a)—

10 (A) by redesignating paragraph (2) as
11 paragraph (3);

12 (B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
13 following new paragraph (2):

14 “(2)(A) If a surviving spouse otherwise eligible for
15 payment of pension under section 1541 of this title dis-
16 poses of covered resources for less than fair market value
17 on or after the look-back date described in subparagraph
18 (C)(i), the Secretary shall deny or discontinue the pay-
19 ment of pension to such surviving spouse under section
20 1541 of this title for months during the period beginning
21 on the date described in subparagraph (D) and equal to
22 the number of months calculated as provided in subpara-
23 graph (E).

24 “(B)(i) For purposes of this paragraph, a covered re-
25 source is any resource that was a part of the corpus of

1 the estate of the surviving spouse that the Secretary con-
2 siders that under all the circumstances, if the surviving
3 spouse had not disposed of such resource, it would be rea-
4 sonable that the resource (or some portion of the resource)
5 be consumed for the surviving spouse's maintenance.

6 “(ii) For purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary
7 may consider, in accordance with regulations the Sec-
8 retary shall prescribe, a transfer of an asset (including a
9 transfer of an asset to an annuity, trust, or other financial
10 instrument or investment) a disposal of a covered resource
11 for less than fair market value if such transfer reduces
12 the amount in the corpus of the estate of the surviving
13 spouse that the Secretary considers, under all the cir-
14 cumstances, would be reasonable to be consumed for the
15 surviving spouse's maintenance.

16 “(C)(i) The look-back date described in this clause
17 is a date that is 36 months before the date described in
18 clause (ii).

19 “(ii) The date described in this clause is the date on
20 which the surviving spouse applies for pension under sec-
21 tion 1541 of this title or, if later, the date on which the
22 surviving spouse disposes of covered resources for less
23 than fair market value.

24 “(D) The date described in this subparagraph is the
25 first day of the first month in or after which covered re-

1 sources were disposed of for less than fair market value
2 and which does not occur in any other period of ineligi-
3 bility under this paragraph.

4 “(E) The number of months calculated under this
5 subparagraph shall be equal to—

6 “(i) the total, cumulative uncompensated value
7 of all covered resources so disposed of by the sur-
8 viving spouse on or after the look-back date de-
9 scribed in subparagraph (C)(i); divided by

10 “(ii) the maximum amount of monthly pension
11 that is payable to a surviving spouse under section
12 1541 of this title, including the maximum amount of
13 increased pension payable under such section on ac-
14 count of a child, but not including any amount of
15 pension payable under such section because a sur-
16 viving spouse is in need of regular aid and attend-
17 ance or is permanently housebound,

18 rounded, in the case of any fraction, to the nearest whole
19 number, but shall not in any case exceed 36 months.

20 “(F) In the case of a transfer by the surviving spouse
21 during the veteran’s lifetime that resulted in a period of
22 ineligibility for the veteran under section 1522 of this title,
23 the Secretary shall apply to the surviving spouse any re-
24 maining ineligibility for that period.”; and

1 (C) by adding at the end the following new
2 paragraph:

3 “(4)(A) If a surviving spouse otherwise eligible for
4 payment of increased pension under subsection (c), (d),
5 or (e) of section 1541 of this title on account of a child
6 or the child disposes of covered resources for less than fair
7 market value on or after the look-back date described in
8 subparagraph (C)(i), the Secretary shall deny or dis-
9 continue payment of such increased pension for months
10 during the period beginning on the date described in sub-
11 paragraph (D) and equal to the number of months cal-
12 culated as provided in subparagraph (E).

13 “(B)(i) For purposes of this paragraph, a covered re-
14 source is any resource that was a part of the corpus of
15 the estate of the child that the Secretary considers that
16 under all the circumstances, if the surviving spouse or the
17 child had not disposed of such resource, it would be rea-
18 sonable that the resource (or some portion of the resource)
19 be consumed for the child’s maintenance.

20 “(ii) For purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary
21 may consider, in accordance with regulations the Sec-
22 retary shall prescribe, a transfer of an asset (including a
23 transfer of an asset to an annuity, trust, or other financial
24 instrument or investment) a disposal of a covered resource
25 for less than fair market value if such transfer reduces

1 the amount in the corpus of the estate of the child that
2 the Secretary considers, under all the circumstances,
3 would be reasonable to be consumed for the child's mainte-
4 nance.

5 “(C)(i) The look-back date described in this clause
6 is a date that is 36 months before the date described in
7 clause (ii).

8 “(ii) The date described in this clause is the date on
9 which the surviving spouse applies for payment of in-
10 creased pension under subsection (c), (d), or (e) of section
11 1541 of this title on account of a child or, if later, the
12 date on which the surviving spouse (or the child) disposes
13 of covered resources for less than fair market value.

14 “(D) The date described in this subparagraph is the
15 first day of the first month in or after which covered re-
16 sources were disposed of for less than fair market value
17 and which does not occur in any other period of ineligi-
18 bility under this paragraph.

19 “(E) The number of months calculated under this
20 clause shall be equal to—

21 “(i) the total, cumulative uncompensated value
22 of all covered resources so disposed of by the sur-
23 viving spouse (or the child) on or after the look-back
24 date described in subparagraph (C)(i); divided by

1 “(ii) the maximum amount of increased month-
2 ly pension that is payable to a surviving spouse
3 under subsection (c), (d), or (e) of section 1541 of
4 this title on account of a child,
5 rounded, in the case of any fraction, to the nearest whole
6 number, but shall not in any case exceed 36 months.”;

7 (2) in subsection (b)—

8 (A) by inserting “(1)” before “The Sec-
9 retary”; and

10 (B) by adding at the end the following new
11 paragraph:

12 “(2)(A) If a child otherwise eligible for payment of
13 pension under section 1542 of this title or any person with
14 whom such child is residing who is legally responsible for
15 such child’s support disposes of covered resources for less
16 than fair market value on or after the look-back date de-
17 scribed in subparagraph (C)(i), the Secretary shall deny
18 or discontinue the payment of pension to such child under
19 section 1542 of this title for months during the period be-
20 ginning on the date described in subparagraph (D) and
21 equal to the number of months calculated as provided in
22 subparagraph (E).

23 “(B)(i) For purposes of this paragraph, a covered re-
24 source is any resource that was a part of the corpus of
25 the estate of the child or the corpus of the estate of any

1 person with whom such child is residing who is legally re-
2 sponsible for such child's support that the Secretary con-
3 siders that under all the circumstances, if the child or per-
4 son had not disposed of such resource, it would be reason-
5 able that the resource (or some portion of the resource)
6 be consumed for the child's maintenance.

7 “(ii) For purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary
8 may consider, in accordance with regulations the Sec-
9 retary shall prescribe, a transfer of an asset (including a
10 transfer of an asset to an annuity, trust, or other financial
11 instrument or investment) a disposal of a covered resource
12 for less than fair market value if such transfer reduces
13 the amount in the corpus of the estate described in clause
14 (i) that the Secretary considers, under all the cir-
15 cumstances, would be reasonable to be consumed for the
16 child's maintenance.

17 “(C)(i) The look-back date described in this clause
18 is a date that is 36 months before the date described in
19 clause (ii).

20 “(ii) The date described in this clause is the date on
21 which the child applies for pension under section 1542 of
22 this title or, if later, the date on which the child (or person
23 described in subparagraph (B)) disposes of covered re-
24 sources for less than fair market value.

1 “(D) The date described in this clause is the first
2 day of the first month in or after which covered resources
3 were disposed of for less than fair market value and which
4 does not occur in any other period of ineligibility under
5 this paragraph.

6 “(E) The number of months calculated under this
7 clause shall be equal to—

8 “(i) the total, cumulative uncompensated value
9 of all covered resources so disposed of by the child
10 (or person described in subparagraph (B)) on or
11 after the look-back date described in subparagraph
12 (C)(i); divided by

13 “(ii) the maximum amount of monthly pension
14 that is payable to a child under section 1542 of this
15 title,

16 rounded, in the case of any fraction, to the nearest whole
17 number, but shall not in any case exceed 36 months.”;
18 and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
20 section:

21 “(c)(1) The Secretary shall not deny or discontinue
22 payment of pension under section 1541 or 1542 of this
23 title or payment of increased pension under subsection (c),
24 (d), or (e) of section 1541 of this title on account of a
25 child by reason of the application of subsection (a)(2),

1 (a)(4), or (b)(2) of this section to the disposal of resources
2 by an individual to the extent that—

3 “(A) a satisfactory showing is made to the Sec-
4 retary (in accordance with regulations promulgated
5 by the Secretary) that all resources disposed of for
6 less than fair market value have been returned to
7 the individual who disposed of the resources; or

8 “(B) the Secretary determines, under proce-
9 dures established by the Secretary, that the denial
10 or discontinuance of payment would work an undue
11 hardship as determined on the basis of criteria es-
12 tablished by the Secretary.

13 “(2) At the time a surviving spouse or child applies
14 for pension under section 1541 or 1542 of this title or
15 increased pension under subsection (c), (d), or (e) of sec-
16 tion 1541 of this title on account of a child, and at such
17 other times as the Secretary considers appropriate, the
18 Secretary shall—

19 “(A) inform such surviving spouse or child of
20 the provisions of subsections (a)(2), (a)(4), and
21 (b)(2), as applicable, providing for a period of ineli-
22 gibility for payment of pension or increased pension
23 under such sections for individuals who make certain
24 dispositions of resources for less than fair market
25 value; and

1 “(B) obtain from such surviving spouse or child
2 information which may be used in determining
3 whether or not a period of ineligibility for such pay-
4 ments would be required by reason of such sub-
5 sections.”.

6 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsections (a)(2), (b)(2),
7 and (c) of section 1522 of title 38, United States Code,
8 as added by subsection (a), and subsections (a)(2), (a)(4),
9 (b)(2), and (c) of section 1543 of such title, as added by
10 subsection (b), shall take effect on the date that is one
11 year after the date of the enactment of this Act and shall
12 apply with respect to payments of pension and increased
13 pension applied for after such date and to payments of
14 pension and increased pension for which eligibility is rede-
15 termined after such date, except that no reduction in pen-
16 sion shall be made under such subsections because of any
17 disposal of covered resources made before such date.

18 (d) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years
20 after the date of the enactment of this Act and not
21 less frequently than once each year thereafter
22 through 2018, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
23 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
24 gress a report on the administration of subsections
25 (a)(2), (b)(2), and (c) of section 1522 of title 38,

1 United States Code, as added by subsection (a), and
2 subsections (a)(2), (a)(4), (b)(2), and (c) of section
3 1543 of such title, as added by subsection (b), dur-
4 ing the most recent 12-month period.

5 (2) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted under
6 paragraph (1) shall include the following, for the pe-
7 riod covered by the report:

8 (A) The number of individuals who applied
9 for pension under chapter 15 of such title.

10 (B) The number of individuals who re-
11 ceived pension under such chapter.

12 (C) The number of individuals with respect
13 to whom the Secretary denied or discontinued
14 payment of pension under the subsections re-
15 ferred to in paragraph (1).

16 (D) A description of any trends identified
17 by the Secretary regarding pension payments
18 that have occurred as a result of the amend-
19 ments made by this section.

20 (E) Such other information as the Sec-
21 retary considers appropriate.

22 (3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS
23 DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appro-
24 priate committees of Congress” means—

1 (A) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs
2 and the Select Committee on Aging of the Sen-
3 ate; and

4 (B) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of
5 the House of Representatives.

6 **SEC. 4. REVIEW OF OPERATION OF CERTAIN SHIPS DURING**
7 **THE VIETNAM ERA.**

8 (a) REVIEW REQUIRED.—By not later than one year
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
10 of Defense shall review the logs of each ship under the
11 authority of the Secretary of the Navy that is known to
12 have operated in the waters near Vietnam during the Viet-
13 nam Era (as that term is defined in section 101(29) of
14 title 38, United States Code) to determine—

15 (1) whether each such ship operated in the ter-
16 ritorial waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the
17 period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on
18 May 7, 1975; and

19 (2) for each such ship that so operated—

20 (A) the date or dates when the ship so op-
21 erated; and

22 (B) the distance from the shore of the lo-
23 cation where the ship operated that was the
24 closest proximity to shore.

1 (b) PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO THE SECRETARY
2 OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Upon a determination that any
3 such ship so operated, the Secretary of Defense shall pro-
4 vide such determination, together with the information de-
5 scribed in subsection (a)(2) about the ship, to the Sec-
6 retary of Veterans Affairs.

7 (c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The
8 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall make publicly available
9 all unclassified information provided to the Secretary
10 under subsection (b).

11 **SEC. 5. DESIGNATION OF AMERICAN WORLD WAR II CITIES.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
13 shall designate at least one city in the United States each
14 year as an “American World War II City”.

15 (b) CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION.—After the des-
16 ignation made under subsection (c), the Secretary, in con-
17 sultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall make each
18 designation under subsection (a) based on the following
19 criteria:

20 (1) Contributions by a city to the war effort
21 during World War II, including those related to de-
22 fense manufacturing, bond drives, service in the
23 Armed Forces, and the presence of military facilities
24 within the city.

1 (2) Efforts by a city to preserve the history of
2 the city's contributions during World War II, includ-
3 ing through the establishment of preservation orga-
4 nizations or museums, restoration of World War II
5 facilities, and recognition of World War II veterans.

6 (c) FIRST AMERICAN WORLD WAR II CITY.—The
7 city of Wilmington, North Carolina, is designated as an
8 “American World War II City”.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to improve the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with private physicians to conduct medical disability examinations, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a priority for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in processing certain claims for compensation, and for other purposes.”.

