

Union Calendar No.

116TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7795

[Report No. 116-]

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the ability of veterans to access and submit disability benefit questionnaire forms of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2020

Mr. BARR (for himself, Mrs. LURIA, and Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

SEPTEMBER --, 2020

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union,
and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the ability of veterans to access and submit disability benefit questionnaire forms of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Benefits
5 Fairness and Transparency Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. PUBLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF DISABILITY**

7 **BENEFIT QUESTIONNAIRE FORMS OF DE-**
8 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5101 of title 38, United
10 States Code, is amended—

11 (1) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
12 section (e); and

13 (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
14 lowing new subsection (d):

15 “(d)(1) The Secretary shall publish in a central loca-
16 tion on the internet website of the Department disability
17 benefit questionnaire forms, or such successor forms relat-
18 ing to non-Department medical providers submitting evi-
19 dence regarding a disability of a claimant.

20 “(2) Subject to section 6103 of this title, if the Sec-
21 retary updates a form described in paragraph (1), the Sec-
22 retary shall—

23 “(A) accept the previous version of the form
24 filed by a claimant if—

1 “(i) the claimant provided to the non-De-
2 partment medical provider the previous version
3 of the form before the date on which the up-
4 dated version of the form was made available;
5 and

6 “(ii) the claimant files the previous version
7 of the form during the one-year period following
8 the date the form was completed by the non-
9 Department medical provider;

10 “(B) request from the claimant any other infor-
11 mation that the updated version of the form re-
12 quires; and

13 “(C) apply the laws and regulations required to
14 adjudicate the claim as if the claimant filed the up-
15 dated version of the form.

16 “(3) The Secretary may waive any interagency ap-
17 proval process required to approve a modification to a dis-
18 ability benefit questionnaire form if such requirement only
19 applies by reason of the forms being made public under
20 paragraph (1).

21 “(4) Not less frequently than once each year through
22 2026, the Inspector General of the Department shall sub-
23 mit to Congress a report on the findings of the Inspector
24 General with respect to the use of the forms described in
25 paragraph (1).”.

1 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in section
2 5101 of title 38, United States Code, as added by sub-
3 section (a), may be construed to require the Secretary of
4 Veterans Affairs to develop any new information tech-
5 nology system or otherwise require the Secretary to make
6 any significant changes to the internet website of the De-
7 partment of Veterans Affairs.