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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3132

To amend title 38, United States Code, to allow for certain fee agreements for services rendered in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of initial claims and supplemental claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BERGMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to allow for certain fee agreements for services rendered in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of initial claims and supplemental claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Certified Help Options in Claims Expertise for Veterans
4 Act of 2025” or the “CHOICE for Veterans Act of 2025”.

5 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
6 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Promotion of availability of assistance from individuals recognized by Secretary of Veterans Affairs for preparation, presentation, and prosecution of certain claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary.
- Sec. 3. Agents and attorneys in certain claims under laws administered by Secretary of Veterans Affairs: applications for recognition; grounds for suspension; fees allowable.
- Sec. 4. Penalties for certain acts during the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 5. Comptroller General review of process for recognition of agents and attorneys for preparation, presentation, and prosecution of certain claims under laws administered by the Secretary.
- Sec. 6. Publication of information with respect to recognition as agent or attorney for preparation, presentation, and prosecution of certain claims under laws administered by the Secretary; biennial review.
- Sec. 7. Federal preemption.
- Sec. 8. Extension of certain limits on payments of pension.

7 **SEC. 2. PROMOTION OF AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE**
8 **FROM INDIVIDUALS RECOGNIZED BY SEC-**
9 **RETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR PREPA-**
10 **RATION, PRESENTATION, AND PROSECUTION**
11 **OF CERTAIN CLAIMS FOR BENEFITS UNDER**
12 **LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY.**

13 (a) **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE FROM**
14 **ACCREDITED PERSONS.**—Section 5103A of title 38,
15 United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subsections (g) through (i)
2 as subsections (h) through (j), respectively;

3 (2) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-
4 lowing new subsections:

5 “(g) NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF REPRESENTA-
6 TION.—(1) Upon receipt of a claim, or supplemental
7 claim, by a claimant not represented by an accredited per-
8 son, the Secretary shall provide notice to the claimant
9 that—

10 “(A) an accredited person may be available to
11 the claimant for the preparation, presentation, or
12 prosecution of such claim or supplemental claim;

13 “(B) an organization recognized under section
14 5902 of this title is available to the claimant for the
15 preparation, presentation, or prosecution of such
16 claim or supplemental claim at no cost to the claim-
17 ant; and

18 “(C) includes the web addresses of the Depart-
19 ment websites described in paragraph (2).

20 “(2)(A) The Secretary shall maintain, on a
21 publicly available website of the Department—

22 “(i) a list of accredited persons available to
23 the claimant for the preparation, presentation,
24 or prosecution of an initial claim or supple-
25 mental claim; and

1 “(ii) a system through which a claimant
2 may report—

3 “(I) a person, who is not an accred-
4 ited person, who prepared, presented, or
5 prosecuted a claim or supplemental claim
6 on behalf of the claimant; and

7 “(II) any fee charged by such person
8 associated with such preparation, presen-
9 tation, or prosecution.

10 “(B) With respect to the list described in para-
11 graph (1)(A), the Secretary shall—

12 “(i) update the such list not less than
13 quarterly; and

14 “(ii) ensure such list is easily accessible to
15 a claimant.

16 “(3) In this subsection, the term ‘accredited
17 person’ means—

18 “(A) an organization recognized under sec-
19 tion 5902 of this title; or

20 “(B) an attorney, agent, or other person
21 recognized under section 5904 of this title.”.

22 (b) **ONLINE WARNINGS OF FEES FOR CERTAIN REP-**
23 **RESENTATION.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
24 include, in each web portal of the Department of Veterans
25 Affairs through which an individual may file a claim for

1 a benefit under the laws administered by the Secretary,
2 a warning with respect to fees an agent or attorney recog-
3 nized under section 5904 of such title may charge such
4 individual associated with the preparation, presentation,
5 or prosecution of such claim. Such warning shall include
6 the web addresses of the Department websites maintained
7 pursuant to subsection (g) of section 5103A of such title,
8 as added by subsection (a).

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

11 (1) complete a review the regulations, processes,
12 and procedures of the Department of Veterans Af-
13 fairs that with respect to the recognition of agents
14 and attorneys under section 5904 of such title;

15 (2) develop recommendations for legislative or
16 administrative action to improve such regulations,
17 processes, and procedures; and

18 (3) submit to the Committees on Veterans' Af-
19 fairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate
20 a report that includes—

21 (A) the findings of the review under para-
22 graph (1); and

23 (B) the recommendations developed under
24 paragraph (2).

1 **SEC. 3. AGENTS AND ATTORNEYS IN CERTAIN CLAIMS**
2 **UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY SECRETARY**
3 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: APPLICATIONS FOR**
4 **RECOGNITION; GROUNDS FOR SUSPENSION;**
5 **FEES ALLOWABLE.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5904 of title 38, United
7 States Code, is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1)—

10 (i) by inserting “(A)” before “Ex-
11 cept”; and

12 (ii) by adding at the end the following
13 new subparagraphs:

14 “(B)(i) An individual desiring recognition under this
15 section shall submit to the Secretary an application in
16 such form, at such time, and containing such information
17 and assurances as the Secretary has determined appro-
18 priate to recognize such individual under this section.

19 “(ii) If the Secretary cannot verify whether the indi-
20 vidual satisfies the qualifications and standards prescribed
21 under paragraph (2) before the end of the 180-day period
22 beginning after the date on which the Secretary receives
23 an application under clause (i), the Secretary shall recog-
24 nize the individual on a conditional and temporary basis
25 for a one-year period.

1 “(iii) At the end of such one-year period, the Sec-
2 retary shall recognize the individual on a conditional and
3 temporary basis for such additional 180-day periods until
4 the date on which the Secretary can verify whether the
5 individual satisfies such qualifications and standards.

6 “(C)(i) The Secretary may not refuse to recognize
7 under this section an individual as an agent or attorney
8 solely on the basis that such individual—

9 “(I) before the date of the enactment of this
10 subparagraph—

11 “(aa) charged a claimant a fee for services
12 rendered in the preparation, presentation, or
13 prosecution of an initial claim; or

14 “(bb) charged a claimant a fee for such
15 services while such individual was not recog-
16 nized under this section; or

17 “(II) is an employee of a nonprofit organization
18 and seeks recognition under this section in the offi-
19 cial capacity of such individual.

20 “(ii) In this subparagraph, the term ‘nonprofit orga-
21 nization’ means an organization described in section
22 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and ex-
23 empt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.”;
24 and

1 (B) by adding at the end the following new
2 paragraphs:

3 “(7)(A) The Secretary shall prescribe regulations to
4 recognize an individual as an agent or attorney to render
5 services in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution
6 of initial claims, or a supplemental claim presented after
7 a final decision with respect to that claim.

8 “(B) The Secretary may charge and collect an assess-
9 ment from an individual who—

10 “(i) seeks recognition under this section as an
11 agent or attorney for the preparation, presentation,
12 and prosecution of an initial claim under the laws
13 administered by the Secretary or a supplemental
14 claim presented after a final decision with respect to
15 that claim; and

16 “(ii) charges or collects fees from a claimant for
17 services rendered in such preparation, presentation,
18 and prosecution.

19 “(C) An assessment described in subparagraph (B)
20 shall—

21 “(i) be in such amount as the Secretary pre-
22 scribes in regulations and determines appropriate;
23 and

24 “(ii) may not exceed \$500.

1 “(D) Amounts collected under this paragraph shall
2 be deposited in a revolving fund in the Treasury of the
3 United States. Such amounts shall be available to the Sec-
4 retary for the administration of this section.

5 “(8)(A) An individual recognized as agent or attorney
6 under this section for the preparation, presentation, or
7 prosecution of an initial claim, or a supplemental claim
8 presented after a final decision with respect to that claim,
9 may not—

10 “(i) charge any fee for services rendered in such
11 preparation, presentation, or prosecution if—

12 “(I) the Secretary determines the disability
13 associated with such initial claim or supple-
14 mental claim is presumed to be service-con-
15 nected because the disability is a chronic dis-
16 ease shown as such during—

17 “(aa) a period of active military,
18 naval, air, or space service; or

19 “(bb) the presumptive period under
20 section 3.307 of title 38, Code of Federal
21 Regulations (or a successor regulation); or

22 “(II) such initial claim or supplemental
23 claim is filed while the claimant is serving on
24 active duty;

1 “(ii) prohibit a claimant from terminating the
2 representation agreement between the claimant and
3 the agent or attorney prior to the date on which the
4 agency of jurisdiction renders a decision on such ini-
5 tial claim or supplemental claim;

6 “(iii) charge any fee for services rendered in the
7 preparation, presentation, and prosecution of such a
8 supplemental claim that could have been filed in
9 continuous pursuit of a claim within one year of the
10 previous decision on that claim, but was filed after
11 such previous decision became final solely due to
12 delay on the part of the agent or attorney; or

13 “(iv) charge any fee for services rendered in the
14 preparation, presentation, or prosecution of a sup-
15 plemental claim, a request for higher-level review by
16 the agency of original jurisdiction under section
17 5104B of this title, or notice of disagreement pursu-
18 ant to section 5104C(a), where another individual
19 employed by the same organization as the agent or
20 attorney, or employed by a subsidiary of the such or-
21 ganization, previously charged the claimant a fee for
22 the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of the
23 initial claim, or the supplemental claim presented
24 after a final decision with respect to that claim.

1 “(B)(i) Agents or attorneys recognized under this
2 section shall, pursuant to regulations prescribed by the
3 Secretary, file a copy of any fee agreement between the
4 agent or attorney and a claimant for the preparation,
5 presentation, or prosecution of an initial claim, or a sup-
6 plemental claim presented after a final decision with re-
7 spect to that claim.

8 “(ii) The Office of General Counsel of the Depart-
9 ment may audit agents or attorneys recognized under this
10 section to ensure compliance with the requirements of this
11 paragraph.”;

12 (2) in subsection (b)—

13 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
14 through (9) as subparagraphs (A) through (I),
15 respectively;

16 (B) by inserting “(1)” before “The Sec-
17 retary, after notice”;

18 (C) in paragraph (1), as designated by
19 subparagraph (B)—

20 (i) in subparagraph (H), as so redesi-
21 gnated, by striking “subsection (c)(3)(A);
22 or” and inserting “subsection (c)(2)(A)”;

23 (ii) in subparagraph (I), as so redesi-
24 gnated, by striking the period at the end
25 and inserting a semicolon; and

1 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing new subparagraphs:

3 “(J) has failed to keep client data and per-
4 sonally identifiable information in accordance
5 with applicable provisions of the Health Insur-
6 ance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996
7 (42 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.), including the data se-
8 curity requirements and implementing regula-
9 tions of that Act;

10 “(K) has sold, or otherwise received con-
11 sideration for the referral of, any personally
12 identifiable information or other data and infor-
13 mation relating to an individual for whom the
14 agent or attorney provided services with respect
15 to the preparation, presentation, or prosecution
16 of a claim under a law administered by the Sec-
17 retary;

18 “(L) has entered into a fee agreement with
19 a claimant, or otherwise received consideration
20 from a claimant, for the preparation, presen-
21 tation, or prosecution of an initial claim under
22 the laws administered by the Secretary, or a
23 supplemental claim presented after a final deci-
24 sion with respect to that claim, and referred

1 such claimant to a private medical profes-
2 sional—

3 “(i) with whom the agent or attorney
4 has a business relationship; and

5 “(ii) who would receive any fee or
6 other consideration for the provision of any
7 service related to such initial claim or sup-
8 plemental claim; or

9 “(M) has used an overseas call center to
10 assist with marketing, initiation, or assistance
11 with, the preparation, presentation, or prosecu-
12 tion of a claim under a law administered by the
13 Secretary.”; and

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

16 “(2) Not later than one year after the date of
17 the enactment of the Certified Help Options in
18 Claims Expertise for Veterans Act of 2025, and an-
19 nually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the
20 Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and
21 House of Representatives a report that includes with
22 respect to the period covered by the report—

23 “(A) the number of individuals denied rec-
24 ognition under subsection (a);

1 “(B) for each individual denied recognition
2 under such subsection, a statement of the rea-
3 sons for such denial;

4 “(C) the number of individuals suspended
5 or excluded from further practice pursuant to
6 this subsection;

7 “(D) for each individual so suspended or
8 excluded, a statement of the reasons for such
9 suspension or exclusion;

10 “(E) the number of individuals granted
11 temporary and conditional recognition pursuant
12 to clause (ii) or (iii) of subsection (a)(1)(B) pe-
13 nalized under subsection (e) of section 5905 of
14 this title; and

15 “(F) for each individual so penalized, a
16 statement of the reasons for such penalty.”;

17 (3) in subsection (e)—

18 (A) by inserting “FEE AGREEMENTS.—”
19 after “(c)”;

20 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “para-
21 graph (4)” and inserting “paragraph (4) or
22 paragraph (5)”;

23 (C) in paragraph (2)—

24 (i) by striking “in a case referred to
25 in paragraph (1) of this subsection”; and

1 (ii) by inserting “in a case” after
2 “represents a person”; and

3 (D) by adding at the end the following new
4 paragraph:

5 “(5)(A) In connection with a proceeding before the
6 Department with respect to benefits under laws adminis-
7 tered by the Secretary, a fee agreement between a claim-
8 ant and an agent or attorney for the preparation, presen-
9 tation, or prosecution of an initial claim for such benefits
10 or a supplemental claim presented after a final decision
11 with respect to such claim shall be a fee agreement de-
12 scribed in subparagraph (B).

13 “(B)(i) A fee agreement described in this subpara-
14 graph is a fee agreement—

15 “(I) that does not require payment from a
16 claimant to the agent or attorney before the date on
17 which the claimant is provided notice of the decision
18 of the agency of original jurisdiction under—

19 “(aa) under section 5104 of this title with
20 respect to the initial claim; or

21 “(bb) under section 5108 of this title with
22 respect to the supplemental claim;

23 “(II) under which the total amount payable by
24 the claimant to the agent or attorney—

1 “(aa) is contingent on whether the initial
2 claim or supplemental claim presented after a
3 final decision with respect to such claim is re-
4 solved in a manner favorable to the claimant;

5 “(bb) does not exceed the lesser of—

6 “(AA) \$12,500 (as adjusted from
7 time to time under subparagraph (E)); or

8 “(BB) the amount equal to the prod-
9 uct of five and the amount of the monthly
10 increase of benefits awarded to the claim-
11 ant pursuant to the claim; and

12 “(III) that contains an attestation by the claim-
13 ant that the agent or attorney provided to the claim-
14 ant the standard form under clause (iii).

15 “(ii) For purposes of this subparagraph, an initial
16 claim or supplemental claim presented after a final deci-
17 sion with respect to such claim shall be considered to have
18 been resolved in a manner favorable to the claimant if all
19 or any part of the relief sought pursuant to the claim is
20 granted.

21 “(C) For use in fee agreements described in subpara-
22 graph (B), the Secretary shall develop a standard form
23 that includes the a notice to the claimant that organiza-
24 tions recognized under section 5902 of this title furnish
25 services with respect to initial claims under laws adminis-

1 tered by the Secretary and supplemental claims for such
2 benefits at no cost to claimants.

3 “(D)(i) If the total amount payable by a claimant to
4 an agent or attorney under a fee agreement described in
5 subparagraph (B) exceeds the amount of any past-due
6 benefits awarded to the claimant pursuant to the claim
7 associated with such fee agreement, the agent or attor-
8 ney—

9 “(I) may not require the claimant to pay such
10 total amount in a single payment; and

11 “(II) shall provide the claimant with an option
12 to pay such total amount in incremental payments.

13 “(ii) An incremental payment under clause (i) may
14 not exceed the amount of the monthly increase of benefits
15 awarded to a claimant pursuant to the claim associated
16 with such fee agreement.

17 “(E) Effective on October 1 of each year (beginning
18 in the first fiscal year after the date of the enactment of
19 the Certified Help Options in Claims Expertise for Vet-
20 erans Act of 2025), the Secretary shall increase the dollar
21 amount in effect under clause (i) of subparagraph (B) by
22 a percentage equal to the percentage by which the Con-
23 sumer Price Index for all urban consumers (U.S. city aver-
24 age) increased during the 12-month period ending with
25 the last month for which Consumer Price Index data is

1 available. In the event that such Consumer Price Index
2 does not increase during such period, the Secretary shall
3 maintain the dollar amount in effect under such clause
4 during the previous fiscal year.”.

5 (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after
6 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
7 prescribe regulations to carry out the amendments made
8 by this section.

9 **SEC. 4. PENALTIES FOR CERTAIN ACTS DURING THE PREP-**
10 **ARATION, PRESENTATION, OR PROSECUTION**
11 **OF CLAIMS FOR BENEFITS UNDER LAWS AD-**
12 **MINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY OF VET-**
13 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

14 (a) PENALTIES FOR UNAUTHORIZED FEES.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5905 of title 38,
16 United States Code, is amended—

17 (A) in the section heading, by striking
18 “**Penalty**” and inserting “**Penalties**” (and
19 conforming the table of sections at the begin-
20 ning of chapter 59 of such title accordingly);

21 (B) by striking “Whoever” and inserting
22 the following:

23 “(a) WITHHOLDING OF BENEFITS.—Whoever”; and

24 (C) by adding at the end the following new
25 subsections:

1 “(b) CHARGING OF UNAUTHORIZED FEES.—(1) Ex-
2 cept as provided in sections 5904 or 1984 of this title,
3 whoever solicits, contracts for, charges, or receives, or at-
4 tempts to solicit, contract for, charge, or receive, any fee
5 or any other consideration with respect to the preparation,
6 presentation, or prosecution of any claim for benefits
7 under the laws administered by the Secretary shall be
8 fined as provided in title 18, or imprisoned not more than
9 one year, or both.

10 “(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the provision
11 of a medical examination or a medical opinion by a third
12 party that does not have a business relationship with an
13 individual recognized under section 5904 of this title for
14 the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of a claim
15 for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary.

16 “(c) VIOLATIONS DURING CONDITIONAL AND TEM-
17 PORARY RECOGNITION.—If an individual recognized as an
18 agent or attorney on a conditional and temporary basis
19 pursuant to clause (ii) or (iii) of section 5904(a)(1)(B)
20 violates any law or regulation administered by the Sec-
21 retary under this chapter—

22 “(1) the Secretary shall, after notice, revoke the
23 conditional and temporary recognition of the indi-
24 vidual; and

1 “(2) such individual shall, after notice and op-
2 portunity for a hearing—

3 “(A) be fined \$50,000; and

4 “(B) shall be barred from recognition
5 under section 5904 of this title—

6 “(i) for a period of one year beginning
7 on the date of the first violation; and

8 “(ii) for a period of 10 years begin-
9 ning on the date of each subsequent viola-
10 tion.

11 “(d) DEPOSIT OF FINES.—Any amount received by
12 the Federal Government from a fine imposed under sub-
13 section (b) or subsection (c) shall be deposited in the fund
14 established by section 5904(a)(7)(D) of this title.”.

15 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
16 tions at the beginning of chapter 59 of such title is
17 amended by striking the item relating to section
18 5905 and inserting the following new item:

“5905. Penalties for certain acts.”.

19 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
20 this section shall take effect on the date that is 180 days
21 after the date on which the Secretary prescribes the regu-
22 lations required by subsection (b) of section 3.

23 (c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the
24 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting
25 through the General Counsel of the Department of Vet-

1 erans Affairs, shall prescribe regulations to define the
2 phrase “preparation, presentation , or prosecution” for
3 purposes of subsection (b) of section 5095 of title 38,
4 United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

5 **SEC. 5. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW OF PROCESS FOR**
6 **RECOGNITION OF AGENTS AND ATTORNEYS**
7 **FOR PREPARATION, PRESENTATION, AND**
8 **PROSECUTION OF CERTAIN CLAIMS UNDER**
9 **LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY.**

10 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
11 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United
12 States shall—

13 (1) complete a review of the process by which
14 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, under section
15 5904 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by
16 this Act, recognizes agents and attorneys for the
17 preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims
18 for benefits under laws administered by the Sec-
19 retary; and

20 (2) submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Af-
21 fairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate
22 a report that includes—

23 (A) an identification of deficiencies in the
24 administration of such section, as amended by
25 this Act; and

1 (B) recommendations of the Comptroller
2 General with respect to legislative or adminis-
3 trative action to improve the administration of
4 such section, as amended by this Act.

5 **SEC. 6. PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO**
6 **RECOGNITION AS AGENT OR ATTORNEY FOR**
7 **PREPARATION, PRESENTATION, AND PROS-**
8 **ECUTION OF CERTAIN CLAIMS UNDER LAWS**
9 **ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY; BIEN-**
10 **NIAL REVIEW.**

11 (a) **KNOWLEDGE TEST.**—Not later than 180 days
12 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
13 of Veterans Affairs shall publish, on a publicly-available
14 website of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and on an
15 on-demand basis, the necessary knowledge test to satisfy
16 the requirements for recognition under section 5904 of
17 title 38, United States Code, as amended by this Act.

18 (b) **CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION REQUIRE-**
19 **MENTS.**—

20 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year
21 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
22 retary shall issue regulations that—

23 (A) update the continuing legal education
24 requirements for continued recognition as an

1 agent or attorney under section 5904 of such
2 title, as amended by this Act; and

3 (B) increase the amount of continuing
4 legal education required for such recognition to
5 an amount that is greater than the amount of
6 such continuing legal education required for
7 such recognition as of the date of the enact-
8 ment of this Act.

9 (2) BIENNIAL REVIEWS.—Not later than two
10 years after the date on which the Secretary issues
11 the regulations required under paragraph (1), and
12 on a basis not less frequent than biennially there-
13 after, the Secretary shall conduct a review of the
14 continuing legal education requirements for contin-
15 ued recognition as an agent or attorney under such
16 section, as amended by this Act.

17 **SEC. 7. FEDERAL PREEMPTION.**

18 This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, su-
19 percede any State law that is inconsistent with the rights
20 established by this Act, or the amendments made by this
21 Act, and preclude the implementation of such a law,
22 whether statutory, common law, or otherwise, and whether
23 adopted before or after the date of enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 8. 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 “April 30, 2032”.