

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To improve coordination between the Veterans Health Administration and the Veterans Benefits Administration with respect to claims for compensation arising from military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To improve coordination between the Veterans Health Administration and the Veterans Benefits Administration with respect to claims for compensation arising from military sexual trauma, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “[_____]
5 Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION AND VET-**
2 **ERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION COORDI-**
3 **NATION FOR CERTAIN CLAIMS ARISING**
4 **FROM MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.**

5 (a) COORDINATED PROVISION OF MATERIALS.—Dur-
6 ing or immediately after each covered event, and together
7 with each covered document, in a claim for compensation
8 arising from military sexual trauma experienced by a vet-
9 eran, the Under Secretary for Benefits of the Veterans
10 Benefits Administration, in coordination with the Under
11 Secretary for Health of the Veterans Health Administra-
12 tion, shall provide to the veteran—

- 13 (1) outreach letters;
- 14 (2) information on the Veterans Crisis Line;
- 15 (3) information on how to make an appoint-
16 ment with a mental health provider; and
- 17 (4) other information on available resources re-
18 lating to military sexual trauma (including informa-
19 tion on military sexual trauma coordinators of the
20 Veterans Health Administration, mental health pro-
21 viders trained in military sexual trauma issues, and
22 peer support specialists).

23 (b) AUTOMATIC NOTIFICATION SYSTEM.—In a claim
24 for compensation arising from military sexual trauma ex-
25 perience by a veteran, if the veteran is enrolled in the
26 patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans

1 Affairs under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code,
2 and consents to the notification system under this sub-
3 section, the Under Secretary for Benefits shall automati-
4 cally notify the Under Secretary for Health immediately
5 before and after the veteran—

6 (1) participates in any covered event; or

7 (2) receives any covered document.

8 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) The term “compensation” has the meaning
10 given that term in section 101 of title 38, United
11 States Code.

12 (2) The term “covered document” means a de-
13 termination (including a rating determination) that
14 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs provides to the
15 claimant in connection with a claim for compensa-
16 tion.

17 (3) The term “covered event” includes, with re-
18 spect to a claim for compensation—

19 (A) a medical examination under section
20 5103A of title 38, United States Code;

21 (B) a hearing before the Board of Vet-
22 erans’ Appeals under section 7107 of such title;
23 and

24 (C) any other event determined relevant by
25 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

1 (4) The term “military sexual trauma” has the
2 meaning given that term in subsection (c) of the sec-
3 ond section 1164 of title 38, United States Code.

4 (5) The term “Veterans Crisis Line” means the
5 toll-free hotline for veterans established under sec-
6 tion 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code.