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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit a plan to expand the use of certain automation tools in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit a plan to expand the use of certain automation tools in the Department 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

1 **SEC. 2. 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 180 days 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 (e) DEADLINE FOR PROVISION OF AUTOMATION
14 TOOL TO CERTAIN PROGRAM OFFICES.—Not later than
15 one year after the date of the submission of the plan re-
16 quired by subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that
17 an automation tool with the capability described in sub-
18 section (b)(5) is made available to each program office of
19 the Department responsible for processing claims for pen-
20 sion or survivor benefits under the laws administered by
21 the Secretary.

1 **SEC. 3. OTHER REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO TECH-**
2 **NOLOGY AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
3 **FAIRS.**

4 (a) AUTOMATIC NOTICES REGARDING BENEFITS FOR
5 CERTAIN CHILDREN OF VETERANS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
8 retary of Veterans Affairs shall implement policies,
9 processes, and technological capabilities, including in
10 the National Work Queue (or successor system), to
11 ensure that, in the case of any covered situation, a
12 claims processor is made aware of, and assigned to
13 address, such covered situation.

14 (2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

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

16 (i) any increase in the amount of de-
17 pendency compensation paid to a bene-
18 ficiary for a child under the laws adminis-
19 tered by the Secretary; and

20 (ii) any educational assistance paid to
21 the child of a veteran under the laws ad-
22 ministered by the Secretary.

23 (B) The term “child” has the meaning
24 given such term in section 101(4)(A)(iii) of title
25 38, United States Code.

1 (b) CORRECT LABELING OF DOCUMENTS.—Not later
2 than 180 days the Secretary shall submit to the Commit-
3 tees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Rep-
4 resentatives a plan to ensure that documents in the Vet-
5 erans Benefits Management System (or any successor sys-
6 tem) are correctly labeled when such documents are
7 uploaded, including when such documents are labeled
8 using automation tools.