

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1039

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center for an assessment of notice letters that the Secretary sends to claimants for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2025

Mr. BARRETT (for himself, Mr. BOST, and Ms. BUDZINSKI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

---

## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center for an assessment of notice letters that the Secretary sends to claimants for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, 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 “Clear Communication  
5 for Veterans Claims Act”.

1     **SEC. 2. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF NOTICES THAT THE**  
2                 **SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SENDS**  
3                 **TO CLAIMANTS.**

4         (a) AGREEMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the  
5     date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-  
6     erans Affairs shall seek to enter into an agreement with  
7     an FFRDC for an assessment of notices that the Sec-  
8     retary sends to claimants.

9         (b) ASSESSMENT.—An FFRDC that enters to an  
10   agreement under subsection (a) shall submit to the Sec-  
11   retary a written assessment of such notices. The assess-  
12   ment shall include the following:

13                 (1) The determination of the FFRDC, made in  
14     consultation with covered entities, whether each such  
15     notice may be feasibly altered to reduce paper con-  
16     sumption by, and costs to, the Federal Government.

17                 (2) The recommendations of the FFRDC re-  
18     garding how the Secretary may make such notices  
19     clearer to claimants, better organized, and more con-  
20     cise.

21         (c) REPORT; IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 90  
22   days after the Secretary receives the assessment under  
23   subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

24                 (1) submit to the Committees on Veterans' Af-  
25     fairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a  
26     copy of such assessment; and

1                         (2) implement the recommendations in the as-  
2                         essment that are in compliance with the laws ad-  
3                         ministered by the Secretary.

4                         (d) DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—The Sec-  
5                         retary shall complete the implementation of such rec-  
6                         ommendations pursuant to subsection (c)(2) by not later  
7                         than one year after the date on which the Secretary com-  
8                         mences such implementation.

9                         (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10                         (1) The term “FFRDC” means a federally  
11                         funded research and development center.

12                         (2) The term “covered entities” includes—  
13                                 (A) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;  
14                                 (B) an expert in laws administered by the  
15                         Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

16                                 (C) a veterans service organization recog-  
17                         nized under section 5902 of title 38, United  
18                         States Code;

19                                 (D) an entity that advocates for veterans;  
20                         and

21                                 (E) an entity that advocates for the sur-  
22                         vivors of veterans.

23                         (3) The terms “claimant” and “notice” have  
24                         the meanings given such terms in section 5100 of  
25                         title 38, United States Code.

1 **SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN HOUSING LOAN FEES.**

2       The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38,  
3 United States Code, is amended by striking “June 9,  
4 2034” each place it appears and inserting “June 23,  
5 2034”.

