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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of eligible veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of eligible veterans, 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 “Veterans’ Caregiver
5 Appeals Modernization Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF**
2 **VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR COMPREHENSIVE**
3 **ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS OF**
4 **ELIGIBLE VETERANS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1720G of title 38, United
6 States Code, is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (4) of subsection (a)—

8 (A) by striking “An eligible veteran” and
9 inserting “(A) An eligible veteran”; and

10 (B) by adding at the end the following new
11 subparagraph:

12 “(B) The Secretary shall develop and imple-
13 ment a single digital system through which each em-
14 ployee of the Veterans Health Administration or the
15 Board of Veterans’ Appeals responsible for evalu-
16 ating such applications, or appeals of decisions of
17 the Secretary with respect to such applications, may
18 access—

19 “(i) each such application; and

20 “(ii) all documents received or submitted
21 with respect to each such application.”; and

22 (2) in subsection (c)—

23 (A) in the heading, by inserting “; TRAIN-
24 ING” after “CONSTRUCTION”;

25 (B) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) by striking “construed to create—
2 ” and inserting “construed—”;

3 (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs
4 (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respec-
5 tively (and conforming the margins accord-
6 ingly);

7 (iii) by inserting before the matter so
8 redesignated the following new subpara-
9 graph:

10 “(A) to create—”;

11 (iv) in clause (ii) of subparagraph (A),
12 as added by clause (iii), by striking the pe-
13 riod at the end and inserting “; or”; and

14 (v) by inserting after subparagraph
15 (A), as added by clause (iii), the following
16 new subparagraph:

17 “(B) as affecting, if an eligible veteran dies
18 during the pendency of an appeal of a decision of
19 the Secretary affecting the furnishing of assistance
20 or support services under this section, the eligibility
21 of a family caregiver to receive monthly personal
22 caregiver stipends under subsection (a)(3)(A)(ii)—

23 “(i) to which the family caregiver was enti-
24 tled on the date of the death of the eligible vet-

1 eran based on evidence in the file on such date;
2 and

3 “(ii) due and unpaid as of such date.”; and

4 (C) by adding at the end the following new
5 paragraph:

6 “(3) The Secretary shall ensure that any employee
7 of the Veterans Health Administration responsible for
8 evaluating appeals of decisions of the Secretary affecting
9 the furnishing of assistance or support services under this
10 section is provided the same guidance and completes the
11 same training as a higher-level adjudicator under section
12 5104B of this title.”.

13 (b) REQUIRED CONSIDERATIONS.—

14 (1) DIGITAL SYSTEMS.—In developing the dig-
15 ital system required by subsection (a)(4)(B) of sec-
16 tion 1720G of title 38, United States Code, (as
17 added by subsection (a)(1)), the Secretary shall con-
18 sider—

19 (A) lessons learned from the implementa-
20 tion of the Veterans Benefits Management Sys-
21 tem to process claims for benefits under laws
22 administered by the Secretary; and

23 (B) whether other programs administered
24 by the Veterans Health Administration would
25 improve from the development of a single dig-

1 ital system through which applications and doc-
2 uments relating to such programs may be
3 accessed by employees of the Veterans Health
4 Administration responsible for evaluating such
5 applications and documents.

6 (2) TRAINING.—In carrying out the require-
7 ment under paragraph (5) of subsection (c) of such
8 section (as added by subsection (a)(2)), the Sec-
9 retary shall consider best practices developed from
10 efforts of the Secretary to standardize the guidance
11 and training available to employees of the Depart-
12 ment responsible for the delivery of disability com-
13 pensation to veterans eligible for such compensation.