

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4461

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain improvements relating to the transmission of disability benefits questionnaire data to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 3, 2023

Mr. LUTTRELL (for himself and Mr. SELF) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain improvements relating to the transmission of disability benefits questionnaire data to 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 Depart-
5 ment of Veterans Affairs Disability Benefit Question-
6 naires Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MODERNIZATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
2 **AFFAIRS DISABILITY BENEFIT QUESTION-**
3 **NAIRES.**

4 (a) **REQUIREMENT FOR TRANSMISSION OF CERTAIN**
5 **INFORMATION IN MACHINE-READABLE FORMAT.—**

6 (1) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 180 days
7 after enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall re-
8 quire all disability benefit questionnaire data col-
9 lected in the course of medical disability examina-
10 tions made by persons other than employees of the
11 Department of Veterans Affairs under section 504
12 of the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 1996
13 (Public Law 104–275; 38 U.S.C. 5101 note) to be
14 transmitted to the Department in a machine-read-
15 able format.

16 (2) **ISSUANCE OF STANDARDS.**—Not later than
17 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
18 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall issue stand-
19 ards for the transmission of disability benefit ques-
20 tionnaire data in a machine-readable format as re-
21 quired under paragraph (1).

22 (3) **UPDATES.**—In making updates to disability
23 benefit questionnaires after the date specified in
24 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

25 (A) ensure that the updates are made in a
26 manner that allows for the data collected under

1 the questionnaires to be in a machine-readable
2 format as of the date on which the update goes
3 into effect; and

4 (B) not later than 60 days before an up-
5 date goes into effect, notify the persons con-
6 ducting medical disability examinations (or the
7 entities employing such persons) described in
8 such paragraph of such updates.

9 (b) PLAN FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM
10 MODIFICATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date
11 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
12 to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and
13 House of Representatives a plan to modify the information
14 technology systems and processes of the Department to
15 enable a non-Department health care professional selected
16 by a claimant to transmit to the Department, in a ma-
17 chine-readable format, disability benefit questionnaire
18 data, including complete disability benefit questionnaires
19 rather than partial questionnaires or individual elements
20 of medical evidence.

21 (c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The
22 Secretary shall make publicly available on the internet
23 website of the Department referred to in section 5101(d)
24 of title 38, United States Code—

1 (1) a description of the standards issued under
2 subsection (a)(2); and

3 (2) the plan required under subsection (b).

4 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) The term “claimant” has the meaning given
6 such term in section 5100 of title 38, United States
7 Code.

8 (2) The term “machine-readable” has the
9 meaning given such term in section 3502(18) of title
10 44, United States Code.

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