

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2377

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for expedited procedures for the consideration of certain veterans claims, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 24, 2011

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. BOREN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for expedited procedures for the consideration of certain veterans claims, 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 Rating and Processing  
5 Individuals’ Disability Claims Act” or the “RAPID Claims  
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. WAIVER OF CLAIM DEVELOPMENT PERIOD FOR**  
2 **CLAIMS UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY**  
3 **SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 Section 5101 of title 38, United States Code, is  
5 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
6 section:

7 “(d)(1) If a claimant submits to the Secretary a claim  
8 that the Secretary determines is a fully developed claim,  
9 the Secretary shall provide—

10 “(A) the claimant with the opportunity to waive  
11 any claim development period otherwise made avail-  
12 able by the Secretary with respect to such claim; and

13 “(B) expeditious treatment to such claim.

14 “(2) If a person submits to the Secretary any written  
15 notification sufficient to inform the Secretary that the per-  
16 son plans to submit a fully developed claim and, not later  
17 than one year after submitting such notification submits  
18 to the Secretary a claim that the Secretary determines is  
19 a fully developed claim, the Secretary shall provide expedi-  
20 tious treatment to the claim.

21 “(3) If the Secretary determines that a claim sub-  
22 mitted by a claimant as a fully developed claim is not fully  
23 developed, the Secretary shall provide such claimant with  
24 the notice described in section 5103(a) within 30 days  
25 after the Secretary makes such determination.

26 “(4) For purposes of this section:

1           “(A) The term ‘fully developed claim’ means a  
2 claim—

3           “(i) for which the claimant—

4           “(I) received assistance from a vet-  
5 erans service officer, a State or county vet-  
6 erans service organization, an agent, or an  
7 attorney; or

8           “(II) submits, together with the claim,  
9 an appropriate indication that the claimant  
10 does not intend to submit any additional  
11 information or evidence in support of the  
12 claim and does not require additional as-  
13 sistance with respect to the claim; and

14           “(ii) for which the claimant or the claim-  
15 ant’s representative, if any, each signs, dates,  
16 and submits a certification in writing stating  
17 that, as of such date, no additional information  
18 or evidence is available or needs to be submitted  
19 in order for the claim to be adjudicated.

20           “(B) The term ‘expeditious treatment’ means,  
21 with respect to a claim for benefits under the laws  
22 administered by the Secretary, treatment of such  
23 claim so that the claim is fully processed and adju-  
24 dicated within 90 days after the Secretary receives  
25 an application for such claim.”.

1 **SEC. 3. APPEALS FORM AVAILABILITY.**

2 Subsection (b) of section 5104 of such title is amend-  
3 ed—

4 (1) by striking “and (2)” and inserting “(2)”;  
5 and

6 (2) by inserting before the period at the end the  
7 following: “, and (3) any form or application re-  
8 quired by the Secretary to appeal such decision”.

9 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

10 The amendments made by this Act shall apply with  
11 respect to claims submitted on or after the date of the  
12 enactment of this Act.

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