

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1451

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to adjudicate and pay survivor's benefits without requiring the filing of a formal claim, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 21, 2015

Ms. HIRONO introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to adjudicate and pay survivor's benefits without requiring the filing of a formal claim, 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' Survivors
5 Claims Processing Automation Act of 2015".

6 **SEC. 2. EXPEDITED PAYMENT OF SURVIVOR'S BENEFITS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5101(a)(1) of title 38,
8 United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by striking “A specific” and inserting “(A)
2 Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a specific”;
3 and

4 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
5 paragraph:

6 “(B)(i) The Secretary may pay benefits under chap-
7 ters 13 and 15 and sections 2302, 2307, and 5121 of this
8 title to a survivor of a veteran who has not filed a formal
9 claim if the Secretary determines that the record contains
10 sufficient evidence to establish the entitlement of the sur-
11 vivor to such benefits.

12 “(ii) For purposes of this subparagraph and section
13 5110 of this title, the date on which a survivor of a veteran
14 notifies the Secretary of the death of the veteran shall be
15 treated as the date of the receipt of the survivor’s applica-
16 tion for benefits described in clause (i).”.

17 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by
18 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to claims for bene-
19 fits based on a death occurring on or after the date of
20 the enactment of this Act.

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