

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5870

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the processing of claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the transparency of actions of Board of Veterans' Appeals, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 2, 2023

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

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the processing of claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the transparency of actions of Board of Veterans' Appeals, 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 “Veteran Appeals
5 Transparency Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. OPTIONS OF CLAIMANTS FOR BENEFITS UNDER**
2 **LAWS ADMINISTERED BY SECRETARY OF**
3 **VETERANS AFFAIRS FOLLOWING DECISION**
4 **BY AGENCY OF ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.**

5 Section 5104C(a) of title 38, United States Code, is
6 amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “any of the
8 following” and inserting “one of the following”; and

9 (2) in paragraph (2)(B)—

10 (A) by striking “Nothing in this subsection
11 shall prohibit a claimant from taking” and in-
12 serting “A claimant may take”;

13 (B) by striking “in succession”; and

14 (C) by striking the period and inserting
15 “as long as—”; and

16 (D) by adding at the end the following new
17 clauses:

18 “(i) the claimant only takes one such action at
19 a time; and

20 “(ii) any such action is taken in response to,
21 and not later than one year after, the date of the
22 most recent decision on the claim made by the agen-
23 cy of original jurisdiction”.

1 **SEC. 3. BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS PUBLICATION OF**
2 **DATES OF DOCKET ACTIVITY.**

3 Section 7107 of title 38, United States Code, is
4 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
5 section:

6 “(f) PUBLICATION OF EXPECTED ACTIONS.—On a
7 weekly basis, for each docket, the Board shall publish the
8 docket dates of the cases assigned to a Board member for
9 a decision for that week.”.

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