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(Original Signature of Member)

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from requesting additional medical examinations of veterans who have submitted sufficient medical evidence provided by non-Department medical professionals and to improve the efficiency of processing certain claims for disability compensation by veterans, and for other purposes.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. WALZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL**

To amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from requesting additional medical examinations of veterans who have submitted sufficient medical evidence provided by non-Department medical professionals and to improve the efficiency of processing certain claims for disability compensation by 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Quicker Veterans Ben-  
3 efits Delivery Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF MEDICAL EVIDENCE PROVIDED BY**  
5 **NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
6 **MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS IN SUPPORT OF**  
7 **CLAIMS DISABILITY COMPENSATION.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5103A(d) of title 38,  
9 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the  
10 following new paragraph:

11 “(3) During the six-year period beginning on the date  
12 of the enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary may not  
13 request a medical examination under paragraph (1) in the  
14 case of a claim for disability compensation in support of  
15 which a claimant submits medical evidence provided by a  
16 non-Department medical professional, including a non-De-  
17 partment medical opinion, that is competent, credible, pro-  
18 bative, and otherwise adequate for purposes of making a  
19 decision on the claim.”.

20 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
21 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to medical evidence  
22 submitted after the date that is 90 days after the date  
23 of the enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 3. IMPROVEMENT OF DISABILITY CLAIMS PROC-**  
2 **ESSING.**

3 (a) PRESTABILIZATION RATES.—Section 1156 of  
4 title 38, United States Code, is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as  
6 subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

7 (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-  
8 lowing new subsection (c):

9 “(c) PRESTABILIZATION RATES.—During the six-  
10 year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this  
11 subsection, in assigning to a veteran a prestabilization rat-  
12 ing pursuant to section 4.28 of title 38, Code of Federal  
13 Regulations, (or successor regulation), the Secretary may  
14 assign such a rating at the level of total, 50 percent, or  
15 30 percent, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.”.

16 (b) TEMPORARY MINIMUM RATES.—Section 1156 of  
17 title 38, United States Code, is further amended by insert-  
18 ing after subsection (c), as added by subsection (a), the  
19 following new subsection (d):

20 “(d) TEMPORARY MINIMUM RATES.—During the six-  
21 year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this  
22 subsection, the Secretary may assign a temporary min-  
23 imum disability rating to a veteran who—

24 “(1) has one or more disabilities not covered  
25 under subsection (a); and

1           “(2) submits a claim for such disability that  
2           has sufficient evidence to support a minimum dis-  
3           ability rating.”.

4           (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
5           this section shall take effect on the date that is 90 days  
6           after the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply  
7           with respect to claims for disability compensation filed on  
8           or after that date.

9   **SEC. 4. TIMING OF MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF BENEFITS**  
10                           **UNDER THE LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE**  
11                           **SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

12           (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5120(e) of title 38,  
13           United States Code, is amended—

14                   (1) by striking “Whenever” and inserting “(1)  
15           Whenever”; and

16                   (2) by adding at the end the following new  
17           paragraph:

18           “(2) The Secretary may certify benefit payments for  
19           any calendar month in such a way that such payments  
20           will be delivered by mail, or transmitted for credit to the  
21           payee’s account pursuant to subsection (d) of this section,  
22           before the first day of the calendar month for which such  
23           payments are issued.”.

24           (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
25           subsection (a) shall apply with respect to a calendar month

- 1 that begins after the date that is 90 days after the date
- 2 of the enactment of this Act.