

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1647

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program under which certain veterans may submit claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary to any regional office of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 15, 2011

Mr. RUNYAN (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program under which certain veterans may submit claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary to any regional office of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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’ Choice in
5 Filing Act of 2011”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON SUBMITTAL OF CLAIMS TO**
2 **ANY REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE DEPART-**
3 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) **PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of
5 Veterans Affairs shall carry out a two-year pilot program
6 under which the Secretary shall permit a qualifying vet-
7 eran filing a claim for benefits under a law administered
8 by the Secretary to submit such claim to any regional of-
9 fice of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Secretary
10 shall promptly notify each qualifying veteran of the oppor-
11 tunity to participate in the pilot program.

12 (b) **QUALIFYING VETERANS.**—For the purposes of
13 the pilot program under subsection (a), a qualifying vet-
14 eran is a veteran who would, except as provided under the
15 pilot program, be required to submit a claim to one of
16 five regional offices of the Department selected by the Sec-
17 retary based on below average performance.

18 (c) **REPORTS.**—

19 (1) **INTERIM REPORT.**—Upon the selection of
20 the Secretary of five regional offices for the purposes
21 of subsection (b), the Secretary shall submit a report
22 to Congress that lists the offices selected and the
23 Secretary's rationale for selecting such offices.

24 (2) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days
25 after the completion of the pilot program under sub-
26 section (a), the Secretary shall submit to Congress

1 a final report on the pilot program that contains the
2 Secretary's recommendations with respect to the al-
3 location of resources among the regional offices of
4 the Department.

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