

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118-

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OFFERED BY MR. STANTON OF ARIZONA

At the end of subtitle C of title XVIII, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 18___ . RECOGNITION OF INDIVIDUALS AS AGENTS, AT-**
2 **TORNEYS, AND REPRESENTATIVES FOR PUR-**
3 **POSES OF ASSISTING VETERANS IN PREPA-**
4 **RATION, PRESENTATION, AND PROSECUTION**
5 **OF CLAIMS UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY**
6 **THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

7 (a) ANNUAL REPORT.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 59 of title 38,
9 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
10 end the following new section:

11 **“§ 5907. Annual report on agents, attorneys, and rep-**
12 **resentatives**

13 **“(a) REPORTS REQUIRED.—**Not later than 180 days
14 after the date of the enactment of the National Defense
15 Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024, and annually
16 thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees
17 on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Rep-

1 representatives a report on agents, attorneys, and representa-
2 tives recognized under this chapter.

3 “(b) CONTENTS.—Each report required under sub-
4 section (a) shall include each of the following:

5 “(1) A description of the type and frequency of
6 training that is required for the recognition and re-
7 application of attorneys, agents, and representatives
8 under this chapter.

9 “(2) A description of the type of information
10 the Secretary collects from individuals seeking and
11 reapplying for recognition as attorneys, agents, and
12 representatives under this chapter to determine
13 whether to recognize such individuals.

14 “(3) A description of the method the Secretary
15 uses to gather personal and qualifying information
16 from individuals recognized or seeking recognition as
17 attorneys, agents, and representatives under this
18 chapter.

19 “(4) An identification of the frequency with
20 which the Secretary receives updated personal and
21 qualifying information from attorneys, agents, and
22 representatives recognized under this chapter.

23 “(5) A description of the method the Secretary
24 uses to verify personal and qualifying information
25 received from individuals recognized or seeking rec-

1 ognition as attorneys, agents, and representatives
2 under this chapter.

3 “(6) An identification of the frequency with
4 which individuals who are recognized as attorneys,
5 agents, and representatives under this chapter are
6 required to reapply for such recognition.

7 “(7) An identification of the number of Depart-
8 ment employees are responsible for updating the VA
9 Accreditation Search database, or any successor to
10 such database.

11 “(8) An identification of the frequency with
12 which such database, is—

13 “(A) updated; and

14 “(B) checked for accuracy, including with
15 respect to accuracy of contact information and
16 removal of agents, attorneys, and representa-
17 tives who are no longer assisting veterans in the
18 preparation, presentation, or prosecution of
19 claims under laws administered by the Sec-
20 retary.

21 “(9) A description of the steps the Secretary is
22 taking to ensure such database is updated.

23 “(10) An identification of any additional re-
24 sources the Department may need to ensure that—

1 “(A) any published information regarding
2 agents, attorneys, and representatives recog-
3 nized under this chapter is accurate and up-to-
4 date; and

5 “(B) individuals who are recognized as
6 agents, attorneys, and representatives under
7 this chapter are capable of providing assistance
8 to veterans in the preparation, presentation,
9 and prosecution of claims under laws adminis-
10 tered by the Secretary.

11 “(11) An identification of the costs of proc-
12 essing applications for recognition for agents, attor-
13 neys, and representatives.

14 “(12) A description of the timeline for proc-
15 essing applications for recognition for agents, attor-
16 neys, and representatives.

17 “(13) An identification of how frequently rec-
18 ognition is denied or removed from agents, attor-
19 neys, and representatives and for what reasons.”.

20 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
21 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended
22 by inserting after the item relating to section 5906
23 the following new item:

 “5907. Annual report on agents, attorneys, and representatives.”.

24 (b) BIENNIAL DATABASE ACCURACY.—Not later
25 than 180 days after the publication of the initial report

1 required under section 5907 of title 38, United States
2 Code, as added by subsection (a), and every 180 days
3 thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure
4 the accuracy of the VA Accreditation Search Database,
5 or any successor to such database, including with respect
6 to accuracy of contact information and removal of agents,
7 attorneys, and representatives who are no longer assisting
8 veterans in the preparation, presentation, or prosecution
9 of claims under laws administered by the Secretary.

10 (c) TRADEMARKED INSIGNIA.—Not later than one
11 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
12 retary of Veterans Affairs shall—

13 (1) create an insignia for use in identifying in-
14 dividuals recognized as agents, attorneys, and rep-
15 resentatives under chapter 59 of title 38, United
16 States Code;

17 (2) register such insignia with the Patent and
18 Trademark Office; and

19 (3) establish a civil penalty for the use of such
20 insignia to advertise, promote, or otherwise commu-
21 nicate services by an individual who is not recog-
22 nized as an agent, attorney, or representative under
23 chapter 59 of title 38, United States Code.

24 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
25 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-

1 essary to hire four additional full-time employees of the
2 Department of Veterans Affairs to carry out this section
3 and the amendments made by this section.

