

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119–

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OFFERED BY MR. STANTON OF ARIZONA

At the end of subtitle B of title XVII, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 17_____ ANNUAL SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION BY**
2 **THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ON**
3 **RECOGNITION OF AGENTS, ATTORNEYS, OR-**
4 **GANIZATIONS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES**
5 **AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS FOR THE PUR-**
6 **POSES OF ASSISTING IN THE PREPARATION,**
7 **PRESENTATION, AND PROSECUTION OF**
8 **CLAIMS FOR BENEFITS.**

9 (a) ANNUAL REPORT.—Chapter 59 of title 38,
10 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
11 following new sections:

12 **“§ 5907. Annual submission of information on rec-**
13 **ognition of agents, attorneys, organiza-**
14 **tions and their representatives, and other**
15 **individuals**

16 “The Secretary shall include in the annual report re-
17 quired to be submitted to Congress under section 529 of
18 this title information on agents, attorneys, organizations

1 and their representatives, and any other individuals recog-
2 nized under this chapter. Such information shall include,
3 for the year covered by the report, the following:

4 “(1) A description of the type and frequency of
5 training that is required to be recognized, or to con-
6 tinue to be recognized, under this chapter and of
7 any review or audit conducted of such training.

8 “(2) A description of the type of information
9 the Secretary collects from individuals who request
10 to be recognized, or to continue to be recognized,
11 under this chapter.

12 “(3) A description of the method the Secretary
13 uses to gather personal and qualifying information
14 from individuals and organizations recognized or
15 seeking recognition under this chapter.

16 “(4) An identification of the frequency with
17 which the Secretary receives updated personal and
18 qualifying information from individuals and organi-
19 zations recognized under this chapter.

20 “(5) A description of the method the Secretary
21 uses to verify personal and qualifying information
22 received from individuals and organizations recog-
23 nized or seeking recognition under this chapter.

24 “(6) An identification of the frequency with
25 which individuals and organizations recognized

1 under this chapter are required to comply with ongoing reporting requirements.

3 “(7) An identification of the number of Department employees responsible for the administration of this chapter.

6 “(8) An identification of the frequency with which the VA Accreditation Search Database, or any successor to such database, is—

9 “(A) updated; and

10 “(B) checked for accuracy, including with respect to the accuracy of contact information and the removal of individuals and organizations no longer needed to assist veterans in the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of the laws administered by the Secretary.

16 “(9) A description of the steps the Secretary has taken to ensure such database is updated.

18 “(10) An identification of any additional resources the Department may need to ensure that—

20 “(A) any published information regarding individuals and organizations recognized under this chapter is accurate and up-to-date; and

23 “(B) individuals who are recognized under this chapter are of good moral character and in good repute, are qualified to render claimants

1 valuable service, and are otherwise competent to
2 assist claimants in presenting claims under laws
3 administered by the Secretary.

4 “(11) An identification of the costs of proc-
5 essing applications for recognition under this chap-
6 ter.

7 “(12) A description of the timeline for proc-
8 essing applications under this chapter.

9 “(13) An identification of how frequently indi-
10 viduals seeking recognition under this chapter are
11 denied such recognition and for what reasons.

12 “(14) An identification of how frequently rec-
13 ognition is rescinded from individuals recognized
14 under this chapter and for what reasons.

15 **“§ 5908. Certification mark for identification of recog-**
16 **nized individuals**

17 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
18 and maintain a certification mark, which may be used to
19 identify individuals who are recognized under this chapter
20 for the purposes of assisting in the preparation, presen-
21 tation, and prosecution of claims for benefits under the
22 laws administered by the Secretary. Such certification
23 mark shall be registered with the United States Patent
24 and Trademark Office.

“(b) CIVIL PENALTY FOR VIOLATION.—(1) A person who displays or otherwise uses the certification mark established under subsection (a) for the fraudulent purposes of inducing the belief that the person is recognized under this chapter for the purposes of assisting the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary shall be fined in accordance with title 18, imprisoned, or both.

9 “(2) This subsection shall not make unlawful the use
10 of any such emblem, sign, insignia, or words which was
11 lawful on the date of enactment of this section.

12 “(3) Amounts collected as civil penalties pursuant to
13 this subsection shall remain available for the Department,
14 without fiscal year limitation, for the purpose of enforcing
15 paragraph (1).”.

16 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
17 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
18 after the item relating to section 5906 the following new
19 items:

“5907. Annual submission of information on recognition of agents, attorneys, organizations and their representatives, and other individuals
“5908. Certification mark for identification of recognized individuals”.

(c) BIENNIAL DATABASE ACCURACY.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary submits the first report under 529 of title 38, United States Code, that includes the information required to be submitted under section 5907 of such title, as added by this

1 section, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans
2 Affairs shall—

3 (1) provide to each individual recognized under
4 chapter 59 of such title a notice that includes a re-
5 quest to update the contact information provided to
6 the Department of Veterans Affairs;

7 (2) make publically available instructions such
8 individuals may use to update such contact informa-
9 tion; and

10 (3) ensure the VA Accreditation Search Data-
11 base is updated to include such updated contact in-
12 formation.

13 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
14 authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2026 and
15 each of the next four fiscal years for the Department of
16 Veterans Affairs such sums as may be necessary to—

17 (1) carry out this section and the amendments
18 made by this section; and

19 (2) employ four additional full-time employees
20 of the Department to perform functions to carry out
21 this section and the amendments made by this sec-
22 tion.

