

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2420

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to implement a modern information technology service to process claims for educational assistance under chapters 30, 33, 35, and 36 of title 38, United States Code.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 8, 2021

Mr. MOORE of Alabama introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to implement a modern information technology service to process claims for educational assistance under chapters 30, 33, 35, and 36 of title 38, United States Code.

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 “Overseeing the GI Bill  
5 Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**  
2 **SERVICES USED TO PROCESS CLAIMS FOR**  
3 **EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.**

4 (a) MODERN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERV-  
5 ICE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall implement  
6 an information technology service to process claims for  
7 educational assistance under chapters 30, 33, 35, and 36  
8 of title 38, United States Code, using one or more com-  
9 mercial software systems. The Secretary shall complete  
10 such implementation not later than August 1, 2024.

11 (b) REQUIRED CAPABILITIES.—The Secretary shall  
12 ensure that the modern information technology service  
13 under subsection (a) has the following capabilities:

14 (1) As compared to legacy information tech-  
15 nology systems—

16 (A) the ability to process claims faster and  
17 in a more efficient manner by improving proc-  
18 essing integration and accuracy;

19 (B) improved data exchange and reporting;  
20 and

21 (C) improved customer integration and  
22 simplification of the online experience.

23 (2) Timely communication by employees of the  
24 Department of Veterans Affairs to individuals and  
25 educational institutions using an online portal that

1 can provide real-time information on claims for edu-  
2 cational assistance.

3 (3) The ability to be customized to address fu-  
4 ture capabilities required by law.

5 (4) Fully automated to the extent practicable  
6 for all original and supplemental claims, including  
7 with respect to calculating accurate awards.

8 (5) The ability for individuals entitled to edu-  
9 cational assistance to electronically apply for, with-  
10 draw from, and amend such entitlement, and to re-  
11 allocate a transferred entitlement.

12 (6) The ability to electronically process changes  
13 made by educational institutions.

14 (7) The ability to verify attendance at an edu-  
15 cational institution.

16 (8) The ability to process validations made by  
17 an educational institution.

18 (c) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after  
19 the date on which the Secretary awards a contract for the  
20 modern information technology service, the Secretary shall  
21 submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the  
22 House of Representatives and the Senate a report con-  
23 taining information on the cost, schedule, and perform-  
24 ance of the project for implementing such system, includ-  
25 ing, with respect to such project, the following:

1           (1) An estimate of acquisition, implementation,  
2           and life cycle costs (including all direct and indirect  
3           costs to acquire, implement, operate, and maintain  
4           such system).

5           (2) An intended implementation schedule indi-  
6           cating significant milestones, initial operating capa-  
7           bility, and full operating capability or completion.

8           (3) Key business, functional, or performance  
9           objectives.

10          (4) With respect to both original claims and  
11          supplemental claims processed on a monthly basis,  
12          statistics regarding—

13                (A) the number of such claims processed  
14                using legacy information technology systems;  
15                and

16                (B) the number of such claims estimated  
17                to be processed using the modern information  
18                technology service.

19          (5) The amount of savings that are estimated  
20          to be realized from using the modern information  
21          technology service rather than legacy information  
22          technology systems.

23          (6) The estimated accuracy of processing  
24          claims.

25          (7) The estimated timeliness for—

1 (A) processing original claims; and

2 (B) processing supplemental claims.

3 (8) A description of how the modern informa-  
4 tion technology service will—

5 (A) automate the processing of original  
6 claims; and

7 (B) automate the processing of supple-  
8 mental claims.

9 (d) UPDATED INFORMATION.—

10 (1) ANNUAL REPORTS.—On an annual basis  
11 during the period in which the Secretary is imple-  
12 menting the modern information technology service,  
13 the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on  
14 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives  
15 and the Senate a report containing updated informa-  
16 tion regarding the matters specified in subsection  
17 (c). Each such updated report shall identify any  
18 changes to the cost, schedule, or performance of the  
19 project to implement such system.

20 (2) NOTIFICATION.—

21 (A) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 60  
22 days after the date on which an action de-  
23 scribed in subparagraph (B) occurs, the Sec-  
24 retary shall submit to the Committees on Vet-  
25 erans' Affairs of the House of Representatives

1 and the Senate a notification of such action, in-  
2 cluding a description of and explanation for  
3 such action.

4 (B) ACTION DESCRIBED.—An action de-  
5 scribed in this subparagraph is, with respect to  
6 the project to implement the modern informa-  
7 tion technology service, any of the following:

8 (i) With respect to the acquisition, im-  
9 plementation, or life cycle cost of the  
10 project, or an increment therein, a change  
11 or variance that is 10 percent or greater  
12 compared to the amount identified the  
13 most recent report submitted under para-  
14 graph (1).

15 (ii) With respect to the schedule for  
16 achieving a significant milestone, initial op-  
17 erating capability, or final completion of  
18 the project, a change or variance that is  
19 180 days or greater compared to the  
20 schedule identified the most recent report  
21 submitted under paragraph (1).

22 (iii) With respect to the performance,  
23 an instance where a key business, func-  
24 tional, or performance objective is not at-

1                   tained, or is not anticipated to be attained,  
2                   in whole or in part.

3           (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
4 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans  
5 Affairs for fiscal years 2022 through 2024 a total of  
6 \$250,000,000 to carry out this section.

7           (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8               (1) The term “legacy information technology  
9               system” means an information technology system  
10              used by the Department of Veterans Affairs to proc-  
11              ess claims for educational assistance under chapters  
12              30, 33, 35, and 36 of title 38, United States Code,  
13              before the date on which the Secretary of Veterans  
14              Affairs awards a contract under subsection (a) for  
15              the modern information technology service.

16              (2) The term “modern information technology  
17              service” means the information technology service  
18              implemented under subsection (a) to process claims  
19              for educational assistance under chapters 30, 33, 35,  
20              and 36 of title 38, United States Code.

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