

taken by the Secretary to deal with the evidence and how long on average it took to take those actions.

(U) The number of errors committed by the Secretary in carrying out the Secretary's duty to assist under section 5103A of title 38, United States Code, that were identified by higher-level review and by the Board, disaggregated by type of error, such as errors relating to private records and inadequate examinations, and a comparison with errors committed by the Secretary in carrying out such duty with respect to appeals of decisions on legacy claims.

(V) An assessment of the productivity of employees at the regional offices and at the Board, disaggregated by level of experience of the employees.

(W) The percentage of cases that are decided within the goals established by the Secretary for deciding cases, disaggregated by cases that involve a supplemental claim, cases that involve higher-level review, and by docket maintained under section 7107(a) of such title, as amended by section 2(t), or in the case that the Secretary has not established goals for deciding cases, the percentage of cases which are decided within one year, two years, three years, and more than three years, disaggregated by docket.

(X) Of the cases that involve higher-level review, the percentage of decisions that are overturned in whole or in part by the higher-level adjudicator, that are upheld by the higher-level adjudicator, and that are returned for correction of an error.

(Y) The frequency by which the Secretary readjudicates a claim pursuant to section 5108 of such title, as amended by section 2(i), and the frequency by which readjudication pursuant to section 5108 of such title, as so amended, results in an award of benefits.

(Z) In any case in which the Board decides to screen cases for a purpose described in section 7107(d) of such title, as amended by section 2(t)(1)—

(i) a description of the way in which the cases are screened and the purposes for which they are screened;

(ii) a description of the effect such screening has had on—

(I) the timeliness of the issuance of decisions of the Board; and

(II) the inventory of cases before the Board; and

(iii) the type and frequency of development errors detected through such screening.

(2) With respect to the processing by the Secretary of appeals of decisions on legacy claims, the following:

(A) The average duration of each segment of the appeals process, disaggregated by periods in which the Secretary is waiting for a claimant to take an action and periods in which the claimant is waiting for the Secretary to take an action.

(B) The frequency by which appeals lead to additional grant of benefits by the Secretary, disaggregated by whether the additional benefits are a result of additional evidence added after the initial decision.

(C) The number and average amount of retroactive awards of benefits resulting from an appeal.

(D) The average duration from filing a legacy claim with the Secretary until all appeals and remands relating to such legacy claim are completed.

(E) The average number of times claimants submit to the Secretary different claims with respect to the same condition, such as an initial claim, new and material evidence, or a claim for an increase in benefits.

(F) An assessment of the productivity of employees at the regional offices and at the Board, disaggregated by level of experience of the employees.

(G) The average number of days the duration of an appeal is extended because the Secretary secured or attempted to secure an advisory med-

ical opinion under section 5109 of title 38, United States Code, or section 7109 of such title (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act).

(H) The frequency by which claims are reopened pursuant to section 5108 of such title and the frequency by which such reopening results in an award of benefits.

(3) With respect to the processing by the Secretary of appeals of decisions on legacy claims that opt in to the new appeals system, the following:

(A) The cumulative number of such legacy claims.

(B) The portion of work in the new appeals system attributable to appeals of decisions on such legacy claims.

(C) The average period such legacy claims were pending before opting in to the new appeals system and the average period required to adjudicate such legacy claims on average after opting in—

(i) with respect to claims at a regional office of the Department of Veterans Affairs, disaggregated by—

(I) supplemental claims under section 5108 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by section 2(i); and

(II) requests for higher-level review under section 5104B of such title, as added by section 2(g); and

(ii) with respect to appeals, disaggregated by docket of the Board maintained under section 7107 of such title, as amended by section 2(t).

SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CLAIMANT.—The term “claimant” has the meaning given such term in section 5100 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) LEGACY CLAIMS.—The term “legacy claim” means a claim—

(A) that was submitted to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for a benefit under a law administered by the Secretary; and

(B) for which notice of a decision under section 5104 of title 38, United States Code, was provided by the Secretary before the date set forth in section 2(x).

(3) OPT IN.—The term “opt in” means, with respect to a legacy claim of a claimant, that the claimant elects to subject the claim to the new appeals system pursuant to—

(A) section 2(x)(3); or

(B) such other mechanism as the Secretary may prescribe for purposes of carrying out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(4) NEW APPEALS SYSTEM.—The term “new appeals system” means the set of processes and mechanisms by which the Secretary processes, pursuant to the authorities and requirements modified by section 2, claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary.

Mrs. COMSTOCK (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the Senate amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS ECONOMIC EXPANSION ACT

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 339) to amend Public Law 94-241 with respect

to the Northern Mariana Islands, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Beginning on page 2, strike line 19, and all that follows through the end and insert the following:

(B) by striking “‘ending on December 31, 2019.’” and inserting “‘ending on December 31, 2019, except that for fiscal year 2017 an additional 350 permits shall be made available for extension of existing permits, expiring after the date of enactment of the Northern Mariana Islands Economic Expansion Act through September 30, 2017, of which no fewer than 60 shall be reserved for healthcare practitioners and technical operations (as that term is defined by the Department of Labor as Standard Occupational Classification Group 29-0000 or any successor provision), and no fewer than 10 shall be reserved for plant and system operators (as that term is defined by the Department of Labor as Standard Occupational Classification Group 51-8000 or any successor provision).’”.

Mrs. COMSTOCK (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a joint resolution of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker on Monday, August 7, 2017:

H.J. Res 76. Joint resolution granting the consent and approval of Congress for the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Maryland, and the District of Columbia to enter into a compact relating to the establishment of the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(b) of House Resolution 481, the House stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 15, 2017.

Thereupon (at 9 o'clock and 7 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, August 15, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2197. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator, Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Designation of Alpha-