



Legislative & Regulatory Updates Newsletter October 2023

Hello Everyone, and welcome to the October 2023 edition of our Legislative, Regulatory, and Governmental Affairs newsletter. In Congress, the majority of the month was spent selecting a new House Speaker – Representative Mike Johnson (R-LA-04).

New Rules

Proposed Rule – Changes to Service Members' Malpractice Claims. If enacted, this rule would adjust the calculation of damages resulting from medical malpractice. Specifically, the changes would amend compensation offsets so that they only apply to economic damages.

This proposed rule would also change when future lost wages may be awarded. When a claimant substantiates future lost wages, they may be awarded compensation for the duration of their rehabilitation period or until the expiration of their work-life expectancy. The rule would also state that claimants must mitigate damages.

To review the proposed changes, click [here](#). Comments may be submitted on this rule through December 19, 2023, and may be submitted [here](#).

Notices and Meetings

NOTICE – Enhanced Use Lease Agreement for Veterans' Housing in Waco, Texas. The VA will lease out Buildings 19, 20, and 21 on the Doris Miller VAMC campus for the development of approximately 34 permanent supportive housing units for Veterans and their families.

Nov. 7 – Toxic Exposure Public Listening Session. The purpose of this meeting is to receive public feedback on the VA's plan to study potential relationships between acute leukemias, chronic leukemias, and multiple myeloma and exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5) from airborne hazards and open burn pits for Veterans who were deployed in the Southwest Asia theater of operations or are covered Veterans, as defined by law.

This session will run from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (EST). To register and attend via WebEx, use [this link](#).

Nov. 13 to 15 – VA Advisory Committee on Education. This committee will hear reports from its subcommittees on education modernization, vocational rehabilitation and training, and distance learning.

The meetings will run from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (EST) and will be held on Microsoft Teams. To attend, email edustaeng@vbavaco@va.gov by November 10, 2023. To dial in, call 1 (205) 235-3524 (Toll) using the Conference ID: 868 260 319#.

Bills Passed by the House and Senate

H.R. 366 Korean American VALOR Act

Bills on the House Calendar

H.R. 3943 Servicemember Employment Protection Act of 2023

H.R. 3581 COPE Act

Bills Referred to Veterans Affairs Subcommittees

H.R. 5870 Veterans Appeals Transparency Act

H.R. 5785 Modifies requirements of the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship.

H.R. 5702 Expanding Access for Online Veteran Students Act

H.R. 5697 Directs the VA Secretary to provide hard copies of veteran/beneficiary reimbursement claims forms by mail or at VAMCs.

H.R. 5682 A Chance to Serve Act. Creates a one-year window for former Peace Corps volunteers to receive hospital care or medical services at VA medical facilities.

H.R. 4424 Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act

Bills Referred to Veterans Affairs Committees

H.R. 6121 Improves benefits for certain individuals who served in the forces of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts.

H.R. 6023 Provides for the retroactive payment of benefits to veterans with covered

mental health conditions based on military sexual trauma.

H.R. 5956 Directs the VA Secretary to provide additional information about certain postsecondary educational institutions to individuals entitled to educational assistance.

H.R. 5938 Amends the Isakson and Roe Act to improve the temporary licensure requirements for contract healthcare professionals who perform C&P examinations.

H.R. 5914 Improves the processes to approve programs of education for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 5913 Improves employment services for veterans by consolidating various programs in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 5904 Improves services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs for veteran families.

H.R. 5891 Veteran Appeals Decision Clarity Act

H.R. 5890 Review Every Veterans Claim Act

H.R. 5883 Provides and expands gratuities for employees killed in the line of duty.

S. 3126 Mark Our Place Act. Authorizes the VA to furnish or replace a headstone, marker, or medallion for the grave of eligible MoH recipients regardless of dates of service.