

S 1186

Department of Veterans Affairs Claims Backlog Reduction Act of 2003

**Congress:** 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Armed Forces and National Security

**Introduced:** Jun 4, 2003

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (Jun 4, 2003)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/senate-bill/1186>

Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Edwards, John [D-NC]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** NC • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Breaux, John B. [D-LA]	D · LA		Jun 17, 2003

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 4, 2003

Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Jun 4, 2003)

Department of Veterans Affairs Claims Backlog Reduction Act of 2003 - Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to: (1) identify the current backlog of veterans' claims for benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs and to categorize those claims; and (2) identify claims that need further development and refer them to a geographically appropriate County Veterans Service Office. Allows veterans' claims to be submitted to County Veterans Service Officers (in lieu of the Department) and authorizes the Officers to fully develop such claims. Requires appropriate information sharing between the Department's Benefits Delivery Network and the Offices.

Requires funding provided by this Act to be allocated to States based on their respective populations of veterans and allocates such funds to the appropriate Office. Prohibits Federal funding from exceeding 50 percent of the costs of Office operations. Allows funding to be used to establish Officer programs in States that do not have one.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Jun 4, 2003:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 4, 2003:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.