

S 1635

Department of Veterans Affairs Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Processing Claims Improvement Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: May 17, 2023

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (May 17, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1635>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]

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

Cosponsors (3 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD] | R · SD | | May 17, 2023 |
| Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE] | D · DE | | Jul 19, 2023 |
| Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV] | D · NV | | Jul 19, 2023 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|-----------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Veterans' Affairs Committee | Senate | Referred To | May 17, 2023 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|----------------|--|
| 118 HR 3718 | Identical bill | Jun 12, 2023: Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. |

Department of Veterans Affairs Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Processing Claims Improvement Act of 2023

This bill requires the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to update an ongoing, national training program for claims processors who review compensation claims for service-connected post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Such claims processors will be required to participate in the training at least once a year starting in their second year of being a VA claims processor.

The training program must be standardized at regional offices of the VBA and include instruction on stressor development and verification.

The VBA must establish a formal process to annually analyze training needs based on identified processing error trends. Additionally, the VBA must establish a formal process to conduct annual studies to help guide the national training program for claims processors.

Finally, the VBA must evaluate the guidance relating to PTSD to determine if updates are warranted to provide claims processors with better resources regarding best practices for claims processing, including specific guidance regarding development of claims involving compensation for service-connected PTSD.

Actions Timeline

- **May 17, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 17, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.