

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To require prompt responses from the Secretary of Defense when the Secretary of Veterans Affairs requests information necessary to adjudicate claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—113th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. 1197

To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. HELLER

Viz:

1 At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

2 **SEC. 1082. REQUIREMENT FOR PROMPT RESPONSES FROM**

3 **SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WHEN SECRETARY**

4 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REQUESTS INFORMA-**

5 **TION NECESSARY TO ADJUDICATE BENEFITS**

6 **CLAIMS.**

7 (a) **DEADLINE FOR PROMPT RESPONSE.**—Whenever

8 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs submits a request to the

1 Secretary of Defense for information that the Secretary
2 of Veterans Affairs determines is necessary to adjudicate
3 a claim for a benefit under a law administered by the Sec-
4 retary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Defense shall
5 attempt to furnish such information to the Secretary of
6 Veterans Affairs by not later than 30 days after receiving
7 the request from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

8 (b) INITIAL EXTENSION OF DEADLINE.—In a case
9 in which the Secretary of Defense is unable to furnish the
10 Secretary of Veterans Affairs with information requested
11 under subsection (a) within the 30-day period set forth
12 in such subsection, the Secretary of Defense shall—

13 (1) notify the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of
14 the Secretary of Defense's inability to furnish the
15 Secretary of Veterans Affairs with the information
16 requested within the 30-day period set forth in such
17 subsection; and

18 (2) attempt to furnish the Secretary of Vet-
19 erans Affairs with the information requested by not
20 later than 30 days after the end of the 30-day pe-
21 riod set forth in such subsection.

22 (c) SUBSEQUENT EXTENSION.—In a case in which
23 the Secretary of Defense is unable to furnish the Secretary
24 of Veterans Affairs with information requested under sub-

1 section (a) within 60 days, the Secretary of Defense shall
2 submit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs—

3 (1) an explanation as to why the Secretary of
4 Defense is unable to furnish the Secretary of Vet-
5 erans Affairs with the requested information; and

6 (2) an estimate as to when the Secretary of De-
7 fense will furnish the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
8 with the requested information.

9 (d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not less frequently than once
10 each year, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the
11 Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Vet-
12 erans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Armed
13 Services and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the
14 House of Representatives a report that summarizes, with
15 respect to the most recently completed one-year period—

16 (1) the number of requests for information re-
17 ceived from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under
18 subsection (a);

19 (2) the number of requests for information re-
20 ceived from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under
21 subsection (a) with respect to which the Secretary of
22 Defense supplied the requested information; and

23 (3) the number of requests for information re-
24 ceived from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under
25 subsection (a) with respect to which the Secretary of

1 Defense was unable to furnish the requested infor-
2 mation to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs within
3 60 days.