

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 208

BY SENATORS CATHEY, BARROW, BASS, CONNICK, HENSGENS, KLEINPETER,
LUNEAU, MCMATH, MORRIS, MYERS AND STINE

A RESOLUTION

To direct the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs to submit an annual report to the Legislature of Louisiana detailing the length of time between a veteran's discharge from military service and the filing of a claim for services.

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes the importance of ensuring that all veterans of the United States Armed Forces receive timely access to the benefits, services, and support to which they are entitled; and

WHEREAS, understanding the time interval between a veteran's discharge from military service and the filing of a claim for services is essential to identifying barriers to access, improving outreach, and strengthening the delivery of veterans' programs throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs (LDVA) is the state agency charged with assisting veterans in securing federal and state benefits, providing advocacy, and ensuring that veterans and their families receive appropriate support; and

WHEREAS, the legislature finds that regular reporting on claim-filing timelines will assist policymakers in evaluating service gaps, improving program effectiveness, and ensuring that Louisiana's veterans receive the highest standard of care; and

WHEREAS, it is both appropriate and necessary for the legislature to receive annual data that will support informed decision-making and enhance the state's commitment to those who have served.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs to submit an annual report to the legislature no later than February first of each year, beginning in 2027, detailing:

(1) The average length of time between a veteran's discharge from military service and the filing of a claim for services.

(2) The distribution of claim-filing intervals across all veterans served.

(3) Any identified trends, barriers, or factors contributing to delays in filing.

(4) Recommendations for improving timely access to veterans' services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall be submitted to the Senate Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs and the House Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs, and shall be made available to all members of the legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE