

Two New Federal Laws signed by President Bush. Effective 10/10/2008

Public Law 110-387 (S.2162) will:

Conduct research into post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and substance-use disorders through the National Center for PTSD.

Provide mental health care, including counseling, for families of veterans.

Provide reimbursement for a veteran's costs of emergency treatment received in a non-VA facility.

Mandate VA to centralize third-party billing functions at consolidated centers.

Expand health care benefits for children of Vietnam and Korean War veterans born with spina bifida.

Highlights of P.L. 110-389 (S.3023) include:

Establishing an Office of Survivors Assistance within the VA.

Allowing temporary disability ratings for certain veterans.

Redeveloping the certification exam for VA claims processors and requiring an evaluation of the training and qualifications assurance program.

Reforming the complaint process under the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act.

Extending Service member Civil Relief act protections to help service members with deployment orders more easily terminate or suspend cell-phone contracts without fee or penalty.