

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
CHARTER OF THE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND  
RELATED BENEFITS

A. OFFICIAL DESIGNATION: Advisory Committee on VA Disability Compensation and Related Benefits.

B. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITY: The Committee's objective is to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on establishing and supervising a schedule to conduct periodic reviews of each of the body systems in the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD), and to make recommendations on the possible expansion of VA benefits to address the impact on quality of life, the need for transition assistance, and the potential for successful rehabilitation.

C. PERIOD OF TIME NECESSARY FOR THE COMMITTEE TO CARRY OUT ITS PURPOSE: The Secretary of Veterans Affairs will determine the continuing need for the Committee.

D. OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE COMMITTEE REPORTS: The Committee will report to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

E. OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING SUPPORT TO THE COMMITTEE: The Compensation and Pension Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, will provide necessary support to the Committee.

F. DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE: The Committee will hold meetings, invite testimony, and receive information from any agency or organization it considers necessary to carry out its purpose. The Committee will submit reports to the Secretary periodically. The first such report will be submitted to the Secretary not later than six months after the Committee's first meeting. As part of its deliberations, the Committee may evaluate the recommendations of all studies relevant to the Committee's objectives and scope of activity. The Committee may recommend proposals for policy, regulatory, and legislative changes.

The Committee will be composed of approximately 12 members. Several members may be Regular Government Employees (RGE), but the majority of the Committee's membership will be Special Government Employees (SGE). Committee members shall be appointed by the Secretary and shall serve as objective advisors, not as representatives of any organizations for which they may otherwise be serving.

Members will be selected from among recognized experts, veterans, and others with special competence in areas such as disability claims adjudication, vocational rehabilitation, disability programs management, workers' compensation, rehabilitative medicine, mental health research, military medical services management, veterans'

benefits advocacy, and survivor benefits advocacy. Ex officio members will include designees from VA's Veterans Benefits Administration, VA's Veterans Health Administration, and the Department of Defense.

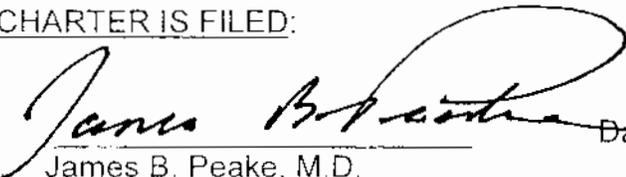
G. ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS IN DOLLARS AND STAFF-YEARS:

Annual financial and personnel support for the work of the Committee is estimated at \$850,000 per year and about 2.0 FTE staff years. Members will receive travel expenses and a per diem allowance in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulation for any travel made in connection with their duties as members of the Committee.

H. ESTIMATED NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS: The Committee will meet as necessary in order to conduct deliberations and make its reports and recommendations to the Secretary. The Designated Federal Officer (DFO), a full time VA employee, will approve the schedule of Committee meetings. The DFO or designee will be present at all meetings, and each meeting will be conducted in accordance with an agenda approved by the DFO. The DFO is authorized to adjourn any meeting when he or she determines it is in the public interest to do so.

I. COMMITTEE TERMINATION DATE: The Committee will operate for an initial period of two years and may be continued at the discretion of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

J. DATE CHARTER IS FILED:

Approved:  Date: 9/10/08  
James B. Peake, M.D.  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs