

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
CHARTER OF THE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY COMPENSATION

A. OFFICIAL DESIGNATION: Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation.

B. OBJECTIVE: The Committee's objective is to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with respect to the maintenance and periodic readjustment of the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities.

C. PERIOD OF TIME NECESSARY FOR THE COMMITTEE TO CARRY OUT ITS PURPOSE: The Committee was established under provisions of 38 U.S.C. § 546 and has no termination date.

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. The Secretary shall ensure that appropriate personnel, funding, and other resources are provided to the Committee to carry out its responsibilities.

F. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP: The Committee shall consist of not more than 18 members appointed by the Secretary from among individuals who have experience with the provision of disability compensation by the Department; or are leading medical or scientific experts in relevant fields. The Secretary shall determine the terms of pay and allowances of the members of the Committee.

The terms of service for Committee members may not exceed four years and shall be staggered to ensure that the dates for the termination of the members' terms are not all the same. The Secretary may reappoint any member for one or more additional terms of service. The Secretary shall select a Chair from among the members of the Committee. Several members may be Regular Government Employees (RGE), but the majority of the Committee's membership will be Special Government Employees (SGE).

G. DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE: In providing advice to the Secretary under 38 U.S.C. § 546, the Committee shall assemble and review relevant information relating to the needs of veterans with disabilities; provide information relating to the nature and character of disabilities arising from service in the Armed Forces; provide an on-going assessment of the effectiveness of the VA's Schedule for Rating Disabilities; and provide on-going advice on the most appropriate means of responding to the needs of veterans relating to disability compensation in the future. In carrying out its duties, the Committee shall take into special account the needs of veterans who have served in a theater of combat operations.

Not later than October 31, 2010, and not less frequently than every two years thereafter, the Committee shall submit to the Secretary a report on the programs and activities of the Department that relate to the payment of disability compensation. Each such report shall include an assessment of the needs of veterans with respect to disability compensation; and such recommendations (including recommendations for administrative or legislative action) as the Committee considers appropriate. The Committee may submit to the Secretary such other reports and recommendations as the Committee considers appropriate.

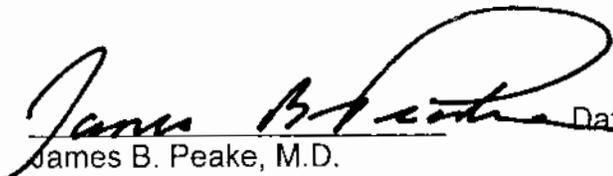
H. REPORTS TO CONGRESS: Not later than 90 days after the receipt of a biennial report as described above, the Secretary shall transmit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a copy of such report, together with such comments and recommendations concerning such report as the Secretary considers appropriate. The Secretary shall submit with each biennial report a summary of all reports and recommendations of the Committee submitted to the Secretary since the previous report transmitted by the Secretary in response to the Committee's most recent biennial report.

I. 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 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.

J. 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.

K. COMMITTEE TERMINATION DATE: The Committee's statutory authority provides for no termination date.

L. DATE CHARTER IS FILED:

Approved:  Date: 10/29/08  
James B. Peake, M.D.  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs