

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7926

To amend title 38, United States Code, to allow for the electronic request of certain records, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 4, 2020

Mr. COX of California (for himself and Mr. ROY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to allow for the electronic request of certain records, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Ensuring Veterans Ac-
5 cess Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ELECTRONIC REQUEST OF CERTAIN RECORDS**

7 **MAINTAINED BY THE SECRETARY OF VET-**
8 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

9 (a) ELECTRONIC RECORD REQUESTS.—Section 5702
10 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
2 section (c); and

3 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(b)(1) The Secretary shall establish and maintain
6 a secure, internet-based portal to ensure that a person or
7 a duly authorized agent or representative of that person
8 may submit an electronic request for such records.

9 “(2) The Secretary, upon receipt of a valid request
10 made through the portal established under paragraph (1),
11 shall provide to the requestor—

12 “(A) not later than 10 days after receipt, con-
13 firmation of such receipt; and

14 “(B) not later than 120 days after receipt, such
15 records requested in the form selected by the re-
16 questor.”.

17 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 5702(a)
18 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

19 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
20 striking “in writing” and inserting “in writing, in-
21 cluding an electronic request submitted through the
22 portal established under subsection (b),”;

23 (2) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the
24 end;

1 (3) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at
2 the end and inserting “; and”; and

3 (4) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(3) the format in which such copy is desired,
5 including whether in printed form or by download-
6 able file.”.

7 (c) DEADLINE; ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTRONIC
8 PORTAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the
9 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
10 shall establish the portal required under section
11 5702(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, as added by
12 this Act, and, to the extent practicable, the Secretary shall
13 utilize existing online resources of the Department of Vet-
14 erans Affairs for the purposes of such establishment.

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