

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5916

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

Received

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Wounded Warrior Ac-
3 cess Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. ELECTRONIC REQUEST OF CERTAIN RECORDS**
5 **MAINTAINED BY THE SECRETARY OF VET-**
6 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

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

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

11 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(b)(1) The Secretary shall establish and maintain
14 a secure website or online tool for a claimant or a duly
15 recognized agent or representative of that claimant to sub-
16 mit an electronic request for such records.

17 “(2) The Secretary, upon receipt of a valid request
18 made through the website or online tool established under
19 paragraph (1), shall provide to the requestor—

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

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

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

1 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
2 striking “in writing” and inserting “in writing, in-
3 cluding an electronic request submitted through the
4 website or online tool established under subsection
5 (b),”;

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

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

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

11 “(3) the format in which such copy is desired,
12 including whether in printed form or by
13 downloadable file.”.

14 (c) DEADLINE; ESTABLISHMENT OF WEBSITE OR
15 ONLINE TOOL.—Not later than 180 days after the date
16 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans
17 Affairs shall establish the website or online tool required
18 under section 5702(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code,
19 as added by this Act, and, to the extent practicable, the
20 Secretary shall utilize existing online resources of the De-
21 partment of Veterans Affairs for the purposes of such es-
22 tablishment.

1 **SEC. 3. WARNINGS TO CLAIMANTS UNDER LAWS ADMINIS-**
2 **TERED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AF-**
3 **FAIRS REGARDING UNRECOGNIZED REP-**
4 **RESENTATIVES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5901 of title 38, United
6 States Code, is amended—

7 (1) by inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—” before
8 “Except”;

9 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
10 section:

11 “(b) WARNINGS ABOUT POTENTIAL PREDATORY
12 PRACTICES.—(1) The Secretary shall ensure that, each
13 time a claimant under a law administered by the Secretary
14 logs in to a website or online tool of the Department, such
15 website or online tool issues to the claimant, in plain lan-
16 guage—

17 “(A) a warning about individuals who seek to
18 act in violation of this chapter;

19 “(B) a link to an online tool of the Department
20 through which the claimant may report such an indi-
21 vidual;

22 “(C) a link to an online tool of the Department
23 through which the claimant may search for a recog-
24 nized agent, attorney, or other entity recognized by
25 the Secretary for the preparation, presentation, or

1 prosecution of any claim under laws administered by
2 the Secretary; and

3 “(D) a link to a website or an online tool of the
4 Department providing final decisions on discipline of
5 agents, attorneys, and entities, described in subpara-
6 graph (C), by the Secretary for violations of this
7 chapter.

8 “(2) The Secretary shall provide all information
9 under paragraph (1) in the following languages:

10 “(A) English.

11 “(B) Spanish.

12 “(C) Tagalog.

13 “(D) The seven other languages most com-
14 monly spoken in the United States.”.

15 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of Veterans
16 Affairs shall carry out subsection (b) of such section, as
17 added by subsection (a) of this section—

18 (1) after consulting with stakeholders (including
19 veterans service organizations recognized under sec-
20 tion 5902 of such title) regarding the wording of the
21 warning under such subsection; and

1 (2) not later than one year after the date of the
2 enactment of this Act.

Passed the House of Representatives September 14,
2022.

Attest: **CHERYL L. JOHNSON,**
Clerk.