

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5225

To direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to jointly develop and implement an electronic personnel file system, and to jointly conduct a study on improving the access of veterans to files related to military service and veterans benefits, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 5, 2010

Ms. TSONGAS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to jointly develop and implement an electronic personnel file system, and to jointly conduct a study on improving the access of veterans to files related to military service and veterans benefits, 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 “Improving Veterans’
3 Electronic Transition Services Act” or the “iVETS Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. IMPROVING VETERANS ACCESS TO RECORDS.**

5 (a) ACCESS TO PERSONNEL FILES.—Not later than
6 one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
7 Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Af-
8 fairs shall jointly develop and implement a system allowing
9 a veteran to securely and electronically access the official
10 military personnel file of the veteran.

11 (b) CENTRALIZED WEB PORTAL.—

12 (1) STUDY.—The Secretary of Defense and the
13 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly conduct a
14 study on establishing a veterans portal based on the
15 knowledge online portals.

16 (2) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The study under
17 paragraph (1) shall include an assessment of the fol-
18 lowing:

19 (A) Using the knowledge online portals as
20 a model for establishing a veterans portal that
21 includes a single sign-on system for email, per-
22 sonal profiles, organizational pages, directory
23 services, file sharing, and message boards.

24 (B) The ability of a veteran to use the vet-
25 erans portal to access the official military per-

1 sonnel file of the veteran, including form 214 of
2 the Department of Defense.

3 (C) The ability of a veteran to use the vet-
4 erans portal to—

5 (i) file for compensation, educational
6 assistance, and other veterans benefits;

7 (ii) request medical care; and

8 (iii) track the status of filings and re-
9 quests described by clause (i) and (ii).

10 (D) The ability of a member of the Armed
11 Forces who is retiring, being separated, or dis-
12 charged from the Armed Forces to transfer the
13 knowledge online portal account of the member
14 to the veterans portal.

15 (E) Other matters that the Secretaries
16 consider appropriate in establishing a veterans
17 portal.

18 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the
19 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries
20 shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional
21 committees a report on the study under paragraph
22 (1).

23 (4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

24 (A) The term “appropriate congressional
25 committees” means the following:

1 (i) The Committee on Armed Services
2 and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of
3 the House of Representatives.

4 (ii) The Committee on Armed Services
5 and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of
6 the Senate.

7 (B) The term "compensation" has the
8 meaning given that term in section 101(13) of
9 title 38, United States Code.

10 (C) The term "knowledge online portal"
11 means the Army Knowledge Online portal, the
12 Defense Knowledge Online portal, or other
13 similar Internet Web site established by the
14 Secretary of Defense.

15 (D) The term "veterans portal" means an
16 Internet Web site that provides a veteran with
17 a centralized, secure, and reliable method for
18 accessing service records, health care records,
19 and personalized information regarding com-
20 pensation, educational assistance, and other re-
21 lated benefits provided under title 38, United
22 States Code.

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