

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 7337  
OFFERED BY MRS. CAROLYN B. MALONEY OF  
NEW YORK**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Access for Veterans  
3 to Records Act of 2022”.

**4 SEC. 2. PLAN TO ELIMINATE RECORDS BACKLOG AT THE  
5 NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER.**

6 (a) PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after  
7 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Archivist of the  
8 United States shall submit to the appropriate congres-  
9 sional committees a comprehensive plan for reducing the  
10 backlog of requests for records from the National Per-  
11 sonnel Records Center and improving the efficiency and  
12 responsiveness of operations at the National Personnel  
13 Records Center, that includes, at a minimum, the fol-  
14 lowing:

15 (1) An estimate of the number of backlogged  
16 record requests for veterans.

17 (2) Target timeframes to reduce the backlog.

1           (3) A detailed plan for using existing funds to  
2           improve the information technology infrastructure,  
3           including secure access to appropriate agency Fed-  
4           eral records, to prevent future backlogs.

5           (4) Actions to improve customer service for re-  
6           questers.

7           (5) Measurable goals with respect to the com-  
8           prehensive plan and metrics for tracking progress  
9           toward such goals.

10          (6) Strategies to prevent future record request  
11          backlogs, including backlogs caused by an event that  
12          prevents employees of the Center from reporting to  
13          work in person.

14          (b) UPDATES.—Not later than 90 days after the date  
15          on which the comprehensive plan is submitted under sub-  
16          section (a), and biannually thereafter until the response  
17          rate by the National Personnel Records Center reaches 90  
18          percent of all requests in 20 days or less, the Archivist  
19          of the United States shall submit to the appropriate con-  
20          gressional committees an update of such plan that—

21                 (1) describes progress made by the National  
22                 Personnel Records Center during the preceding 90-  
23                 day period with respect to record request backlog re-  
24                 duction and efficiency and responsiveness improve-  
25                 ment;

1           (2) provides data on progress made toward the  
2 goals identified in the comprehensive plan; and

3           (3) describes any changes made to the com-  
4 prehensive plan.

5           (c) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out  
6 subsections (a) and (b), the Archivist of the United States  
7 shall consult with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

8           (d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES  
9 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-  
10 gressional committees” means—

11           (1) the Committee on Oversight and Reform  
12 and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the  
13 House of Representatives; and

14           (2) the Committee on Homeland Security and  
15 Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Vet-  
16 erans’ Affairs of the Senate.

17 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO ADDRESS RECORDS**  
18 **BACKLOG.**

19           (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addi-  
20 tion to amounts otherwise available, there is authorized  
21 to be appropriated to the National Archives and Records  
22 Administration, \$60,000,000 to address backlogs in re-  
23 sponding to requests from veterans for military personnel  
24 records, improve cybersecurity, improve digital preserva-  
25 tion and access to archival Federal records, and address

1 backlogs in requests made under section 552 of title 5,  
2 United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom  
3 of Information Act). Such amounts may also be used for  
4 the Federal Records Center Program.

5 (b) REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN IN-PERSON STAFF-  
6 ING LEVELS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of  
7 the enactment of this Act, the Archivist of the United  
8 States shall ensure that the National Personnel Records  
9 Center maintains staffing levels and telework arrange-  
10 ments that enable the maximum processing of records re-  
11 quests possible in order to achieve the performance goal  
12 of responding to 90 percent of all requests in 20 days or  
13 less.

14 (c) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORTING.—The Inspec-  
15 tor General for the National Archives and Records Admin-  
16 istration shall, for two years following the date of the en-  
17 actment of this Act, include in every semiannual report  
18 submitted to Congress pursuant to the Inspector General  
19 Act of 1978, a detailed summary of—

20 (1) efforts taken by the National Archives and  
21 Records Administration to address the backlog of  
22 records requests at the National Personnel Records  
23 Center; and

24 (2) any recommendations for action proposed  
25 by the Inspector General related to reducing the

1 backlog of records requests at the National Per-  
2 sonnel Records Center and the status of compliance  
3 with those recommendations by the National Ar-  
4 chives and Records Administration.

