

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 6874**

OFFERED BY Ms. Chertilis-McLormick

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Department of Vet-
3 erans Affairs Watching over Electronic Benefits Act” or
4 the “VA WEB Act”.

**5 SEC. 2. SYSTEM OR PROCESS TO ACTIVELY MONITOR CER-
6 TAIN FUNCTIONS OF THE COVERED WEBSITE
7 FOR ADVERSE EVENTS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
9 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
10 erans Affairs shall develop and implement a system or
11 process to actively monitor certain functions of the covered
12 website, including covered features and any underlying
13 interface or system, for adverse events. The Secretary may
14 use the authority under section 701(a) of the Sergeant
15 First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Ad-
16 dress Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 (Public Law
17 117–168; 38 U.S.C. 324 note) to carry out this sub-
18 section.

1 (b) SYSTEM OR PROCESS REQUIREMENTS.—The Sec-
2 retary shall ensure that the system or process developed
3 under subsection (a) is designed to monitor, and log and
4 store data, with respect to—

5 (1) the volume of traffic to the covered website;

6 (2) the number of submissions made using a
7 covered feature;

8 (3) software updates or other modifications to
9 a covered feature or underlying interface or system;

10 (4) needs, deficiencies, or obsolescence of a cov-
11 ered feature or underlying interface or system;

12 (5) adverse events, including—

13 (A) the date and time of any such adverse
14 event;

15 (B) the number of users of the covered
16 website who were affected by the adverse event;

17 (C) the number of submissions affected by
18 the adverse event; and

19 (D) any factor related to an underlying
20 interface or system that caused or contributed
21 to the adverse event; and

22 (6) any other factors, as determined by the Sec-
23 retary.

24 (c) NOTICE AND REPORT REGARDING CERTAIN AD-
25 VERSE EVENTS.—

1 (1) NOTICE.—In the case of any significant ad-
2 verse event affecting the covered website, not later
3 than 30 days after the date of such event, the Sec-
4 retary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans'
5 Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives
6 notice of the event, including a description of the
7 event.

8 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after re-
9 ceiving a request from the Chair of the Committee
10 on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate or the Chair of
11 the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of
12 Representatives for a report about an adverse event,
13 including a significant adverse event, the Secretary
14 shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs
15 of the Senate and the House of Representatives a
16 report on the adverse event covered by the request.
17 Each such report shall include—

18 (A) a description of the adverse event;

19 (B) the date and time when the adverse
20 event began and ended;

21 (C) the number of users of the covered
22 website who were affected;

23 (D) the number of submissions made using
24 a covered feature that were affected; and

1 (E) a description of any underlying inter-
2 face or system that was affected.

3 (3) SUNSET.—The requirements under this
4 subsection shall expire on the date that is seven
5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

6 (d) REPORT REGARDING EXERCISE OF CERTAIN AU-
7 THORITY.—If the Secretary exercises authority under sec-
8 tion 701(a) of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson
9 Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics
10 Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–168; 38 U.S.C. 324 note)
11 to carry out subsection (a), not later than 30 days after
12 the date on which the Secretary first exercises such au-
13 thority for such purpose, the Secretary shall submit to the
14 Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the
15 House of Representatives and the Committees on Appro-
16 priations of the Senate and the House of Representatives
17 a report about the exercise of such authority. Such report
18 shall include—

19 (1) the cost of implementing the system or
20 process developed under subsection (a);

21 (2) a description of any modernization or re-
22 placement of an underlying interface or system nec-
23 essary to implement the system or process;

1 (3) an identification of any ways in which the
2 covered website and any underlying interface or sys-
3 tem is susceptible to any adverse event; and

4 (4) a description of how the Secretary plans to
5 eliminate or mitigate, to the extent possible, any
6 such susceptibility.

7 (e) TESTING STRATEGY.—Not later than one year
8 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant
9 Secretary for Information and Technology of the Depart-
10 ment of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees
11 on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Rep-
12 resentatives a strategy to reduce the occurrence of adverse
13 events by improving testing for each modification or soft-
14 ware update to a covered feature or underlying system or
15 interface.

16 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) The term “adverse event” means, with re-
18 spect to the covered website, including covered fea-
19 tures—

20 (A) a failure to properly receive or process
21 a submission;

22 (B) a system outage;

23 (C) an error in an underlying interface or
24 system that prevents the transmission of data;

1 (D) a deficiency in information storage ca-
2 pacity;

3 (E) a loss of data;

4 (F) a presentation of incorrect informa-
5 tion;

6 (G) an error regarding a status notifica-
7 tion; or

8 (H) any similar event that affects a func-
9 tion of the covered website, as determined by
10 the Secretary.

11 (2) The term “covered feature” means any fea-
12 ture or function of the covered website for use in the
13 facilitation of the application, maintenance, or re-
14 ceipt of benefits under the laws administered by the
15 Secretary.

16 (3) The term “covered website” means the
17 main internet website of the Department of Veterans
18 Affairs.

19 (4) The term “significant adverse event”, with
20 respect to the covered website, including covered fea-
21 tures, means an adverse event that affects users of,
22 or submissions to, the covered website for a period
23 of 24 hours or longer.

24 (5) The term “underlying interface or system”
25 means—

1 (A) any information technology system
2 that transmits data through, or accepts data
3 from, a covered feature; or

4 (B) any mechanism through which any
5 such information technology system connects
6 and interacts with the covered website.

7 **SEC. 3. ADJUSTMENT OF CERTAIN LOAN FEES.**

8 The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38,
9 United States Code, is amended by striking “November
10 14, 2031” each place it appears and inserting “November
11 28, 2031”.

