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

November 9, 2021

Mr. Aguilar (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.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Wounded Warrior Access Act”.

SEC. 2. ELECTRONIC REQUEST OF CERTAIN RECORDS MAINTAINED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) ELECTRONIC RECORD REQUESTS.—Section 5702 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—
(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (e); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b)(1) The Secretary shall establish and maintain a secure, internet-based website for a claimant or a duly authorized agent or representative of that claimant to submit an electronic request for such records.

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

“(A) not later than 10 days after receipt, confirmation of such receipt; and

“(B) not later than 120 days after receipt, such records requested in the form selected by the requestor.”.

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

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “in writing” and inserting “in writing, including an electronic request submitted through the website established under subsection (b),”;

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

(4) by adding at the end the following:

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

(e) Deadline; Establishment of Electronic
Website.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the
enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
shall establish the website required under section
5702(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, as added by
this Act, and, to the extent practicable, the Secretary shall
utilize existing online resources of the Department of Vet-
erans Affairs for the purposes of such establishment.