

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 1226, with An Amendment**

**(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)**

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1226

To amend title 38, United States Code, to allow for the electronic request of certain records, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2023

Mr. AGUILAR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Wounded Warrior Ac-  
5 cess Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ELECTRONIC REQUEST OF CERTAIN RECORDS**  
2 **MAINTAINED BY THE SECRETARY OF VET-**  
3 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

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

6 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-  
7 section (c); and

8 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-  
9 lowing:

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

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

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

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

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

24 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by  
25 striking “in writing” and inserting “in writing, in-  
26 cluding an electronic request submitted through the

1 website or online tool established under subsection  
2 (b),”;

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

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

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

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

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

20 **SEC. 3. WARNINGS TO CLAIMANTS UNDER LAWS ADMINIS-**  
21 **TERED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AF-**  
22 **FAIRS REGARDING UNRECOGNIZED REP-**  
23 **RESENTATIVES.**

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

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

3           (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
4           section:

5           “(b) WARNINGS ABOUT POTENTIAL PREDATORY  
6 PRACTICES.—(1) The Secretary shall ensure that, each  
7 time a claimant under a law administered by the Secretary  
8 logs in to a website or online tool of the Department, such  
9 website or online tool issues to the claimant, in plain lan-  
10 guage—

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

13           “(B) a link to an online tool of the Department  
14           through which the claimant may report such an indi-  
15           vidual;

16           “(C) a link to an online tool of the Department  
17           through which the claimant may search for a recog-  
18           nized agent, attorney, or other entity recognized by  
19           the Secretary for the preparation, presentation, or  
20           prosecution of any claim under laws administered by  
21           the Secretary; and

22           “(D) a link to a website or an online tool of the  
23           Department providing final decisions on discipline of  
24           agents, attorneys, and entities, described in subpara-

1 graph (C), by the Secretary for violations of this  
2 chapter.

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

5 “(A) English.

6 “(B) Spanish.

7 “(C) Tagalog.

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

10 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of Veterans  
11 Affairs shall carry out subsection (b) of such section, as  
12 added by subsection (a) of this section—

13 (1) after consulting with stakeholders (including  
14 veterans service organizations recognized under sec-  
15 tion 5902 of such title) regarding the wording of the  
16 warning under such subsection; and

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

19 **SEC. 4. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**

20 No additional funds are authorized to be appro-  
21 priated to carry out the requirements of this Act.