117TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

H.R. 7337

AN ACT

- To require the Archivist of the United States to submit a plan to Congress to eliminate the records backlog at the National Personnel Records Center, 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 "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	7 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Archivist of					
8	United States shall submit to the appropriate congress					
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.					
18	(3) A detailed plan for using existing funds to					
19	improve the information technology infrastructure,					
20	including secure access to appropriate agency Fed-					
21	eral records, to prevent future backlogs.					
22	(4) Actions to improve customer service for re-					
23	questers.					
24	(5) Measurable goals with respect to the com-					
25	prehensive plan and metrics for tracking progress					
26	toward such goals.					

1	(6) Strategies to prevent future record request
2	backlogs, including backlogs caused by an event that
3	prevents employees of the Center from reporting to
4	work in person.
5	(b) UPDATES.—Not later than 90 days after the date
6	on which the comprehensive plan is submitted under sub-
7	section (a), and biannually thereafter until the response
8	rate by the National Personnel Records Center reaches 90
9	percent of all requests in 20 days or less, not including
10	any request involving a record damaged or lost in the Na-
11	tional Personnel Records Center fire of 1973 or any re-
12	quest that is subject to a fee that has not been paid in
13	a timely manner by the requestor (provided the National
14	Personnel Records Center issues an invoice within 20 days
15	after the date on which the request is made), the Archivist
16	of the United States shall submit to the appropriate con-
17	gressional committees an update of such plan that—
18	(1) describes progress made by the National
19	Personnel Records Center during the preceding 90-
20	day period with respect to record request backlog re-
21	duction and efficiency and responsiveness improve-
22	ment;
23	(2) provides data on progress made toward the

goals identified in the comprehensive plan; and

24

1	(3) describes any changes made to the com-					
2	prehensive plan.					
3	(c) Consultation Requirement.—In carrying out					
4	subsections (a) and (b), the Archivist of the United State					
5	shall consult with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.					
6	(d) Appropriate Congressional Committees					
7	Defined.—In this section, the term "appropriate con-					
8	gressional committees" means—					
9	(1) the Committee on Oversight and Reform					
10	and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the					
11	House of Representatives; and					
12	(2) the Committee on Homeland Security and					
13	Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Vet-					
13 14	Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate.					
14	erans' Affairs of the Senate.					
14 15	erans' Affairs of the Senate. SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO ADDRESS RECORDS					
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14 15 16 17 18 19 20	erans' Affairs of the Senate. SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO ADDRESS RECORDS BACKLOG. (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is authorized to be appropriated to the National Archives and Records Administration, \$60,000,000 to address backlogs in re-					
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	erans' Affairs of the Senate. SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO ADDRESS RECORDS BACKLOG. (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is authorized to be appropriated to the National Archives and Records Administration, \$60,000,000 to address backlogs in responding to requests from veterans for military personnels.					

United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom

- 1 of Information Act). Such amounts may also be used for
- 2 the Federal Records Center Program.
- 3 (b) Requirement to Maintain In-Person Staff-
- 4 ING LEVELS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of
- 5 the enactment of this Act, the Archivist of the United
- 6 States shall ensure that the National Personnel Records
- 7 Center maintains staffing levels and telework arrange-
- 8 ments that enable the maximum processing of records re-
- 9 quests possible in order to achieve the performance goal
- 10 of responding to 90 percent of all requests in 20 days or
- 11 less, not including any request involving a record damaged
- 12 or lost in the National Personnel Records Center fire of
- 13 1973 or any request that is subject to a fee that has not
- 14 been paid in a timely manner by the requestor (provided
- 15 the National Personnel Records Center issues an invoice
- 16 within 20 days after the date on which the request is
- 17 made).
- 18 (c) Inspector General Reporting.—The Inspec-
- 19 tor General for the National Archives and Records Admin-
- 20 istration shall, for two years following the date of the en-
- 21 actment of this Act, include in every semiannual report
- 22 submitted to Congress pursuant to the Inspector General
- 23 Act of 1978, a detailed summary of—
- 24 (1) efforts taken by the National Archives and
- Records Administration to address the backlog of

l	records requests at the National Personnel Records
2	Center; and
3	(2) any recommendations for action proposed
4	by the Inspector General related to reducing the
5	backlog of records requests at the National Per-
5	sonnel Records Center and the status of compliance
7	with those recommendations by the National Ar-
8	chives and Records Administration.
	Passed the House of Representatives July 14, 2022.
	Attest:

Clerk.

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