

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2590

To amend the Wounded Warrior Act to establish a specific timeline for the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to achieve integrated electronic health records, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 28, 2013

Mr. GIBSON (for himself, Mr. BERA of California, Mr. COOK, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. COFFMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Wounded Warrior Act to establish a specific timeline for the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to achieve integrated electronic health 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 “21st Century Health
5 Care for Heroes Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTING INTEGRATED ELEC-**
2 **TRONIC HEALTH RECORDS.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF TIMELINE.—Section 1635
4 of the Wounded Warrior Act (10 U.S.C. 1071 note) is
5 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
6 section:

7 “(k) TIMELINE.—In carrying out this section, the
8 Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Af-
9 fairs shall ensure that—

10 “(1) the creation of a health data authoritative
11 source is achieved by not later than 180 days after
12 the date of the enactment of this subsection;

13 “(2) the ability of patients of both the Depart-
14 ment of Defense and the Department of Veterans
15 Affairs to download the medical records of the pa-
16 tient (commonly referred to as the ‘Blue Button Ini-
17 tiative’) is achieved by not later than 365 days after
18 the date of the enactment of this subsection;

19 “(3) the seamless integration of personal health
20 care information between the Departments is
21 achieved by not later than 365 days after the date
22 of the enactment of this subsection;

23 “(4) the standardization of health care data of
24 the Departments is achieved by not later than 365
25 days after the date of the enactment of this sub-
26 section;

1 “(5) the acceleration of the exchange of real-
2 time data between the Departments is achieved by
3 not later than 365 days after the date of the enact-
4 ment of this subsection;

5 “(6) the upgrade of the graphical user interface
6 to display the new standardized health care data of
7 the Departments is achieved by not later than 365
8 days after the date of the enactment of this sub-
9 section;

10 “(7) each incoming member of the Armed
11 Forces and the dependent of such a member may
12 elect to receive an electronic copy of the health care
13 record of the individual beginning not later than Oc-
14 tober 1, 2014; and

15 “(8) each current member of the Armed Forces
16 and the dependent of such a member may elect to
17 receive an electronic copy of the health care record
18 of the individual beginning not later than October 1,
19 2015.”.

20 (b) CLOUD STORAGE.—Section 1635 of such Act is
21 further amended by adding at the end the following new
22 subsection:

23 “(1) CLOUD STORAGE.—The Secretary of Defense
24 and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall study the fea-
25 sibility of establishing a secure, remote, network-accessible

1 computer storage system (commonly referred to as ‘cloud
2 storage’) to—

3 “(1) provide members of the Armed Forces and
4 veterans the ability to upload the health care records
5 of the member or veteran if the member or veteran
6 elects to do so; and

7 “(2) allow medical providers of the Department
8 of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs
9 to access such records in the course of providing
10 care to the member or veteran.”.

11 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1635 of
12 such Act is further amended—

13 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “The Sec-
14 retary” and inserting “In accordance with the
15 timeline described in subsection (k), the Secretary”;
16 and

17 (2) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) of
18 subsection (e), by inserting “in accordance with sub-
19 section (k)” after “under this section”.

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