

Union Calendar No. 524

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6874

[Report No. 118–626]

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to implement a system or process to actively monitor the veteran self-service and data transmission functions of the main internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs for certain adverse events, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 19, 2023

Mr. ROSENDALE (for himself and Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AUGUST 9, 2024

Additional sponsor: Ms. MACE

AUGUST 9, 2024

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on December 19, 2023]

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to implement a system or process to actively monitor the veteran self-service and data transmission functions of the main internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs for certain adverse events, 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 “Department of Veterans*
 5 *Affairs Watching over Electronic Benefits Act” or the “VA*
 6 *WEB Act”.*

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

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

20 *(b) SYSTEM OR PROCESS REQUIREMENTS.—The Sec-*
 21 *retary shall ensure that the system or process developed*
 22 *under subsection (a) is designed to monitor, and log and*
 23 *store data, with respect to—*

24 *(1) the volume of traffic to the covered website;*

1 (2) *the number of submissions made using a cov-*
2 *ered feature;*

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

5 (4) *needs, deficiencies, or obsolescence of a cov-*
6 *ered feature or underlying interface or system;*

7 (5) *adverse events, including—*

8 (A) *the date and time of any such adverse*
9 *event;*

10 (B) *the number of users of the covered*
11 *website who were affected by the adverse event;*

12 (C) *the number of submissions affected by*
13 *the adverse event; and*

14 (D) *any factor related to an underlying*
15 *interface or system that caused or contributed to*
16 *the adverse event; and*

17 (6) *any other factors, as determined by the Sec-*
18 *retary.*

19 (c) *NOTICE AND REPORT REGARDING CERTAIN AD-*
20 *VERSE EVENTS.—*

21 (1) *NOTICE.—In the case of any significant ad-*
22 *verse event affecting the covered website, not later*
23 *than 30 days after the date of such event, the Sec-*
24 *retary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’*
25 *Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives*

1 *notice of the event, including a description of the*
2 *event.*

3 (2) *REPORT.*—*Not later than 30 days after re-*
4 *ceiving a request from the Chair of the Committee on*
5 *Veterans' Affairs of the Senate or the Chair of the*
6 *Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Rep-*
7 *resentatives for a report about an adverse event, in-*
8 *cluding a significant adverse event, the Secretary*
9 *shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of*
10 *the Senate and the House of Representatives a report*
11 *on the adverse event covered by the request. Each such*
12 *report shall include—*

13 (A) *a description of the adverse event;*

14 (B) *the date and time when the adverse*
15 *event began and ended;*

16 (C) *the number of users of the covered*
17 *website who were affected;*

18 (D) *the number of submissions made using*
19 *a covered feature that were affected; and*

20 (E) *a description of any underlying inter-*
21 *face or system that was affected.*

22 (3) *SUNSET.*—*The requirements under this sub-*
23 *section shall expire on the date that is seven years*
24 *after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

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

13 (1) *the cost of implementing the system or proc-*
 14 *ess developed under subsection (a);*

15 (2) *a description of any modernization or re-*
 16 *placement of an underlying interface or system nec-*
 17 *essary to implement the system or process;*

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

21 (4) *a description of how the Secretary plans to*
 22 *eliminate or mitigate, to the extent possible, any such*
 23 *susceptibility.*

24 (e) *TESTING STRATEGY.—Not later than one year after*
 25 *the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary*

1 *for Information and Technology of the Department of Vet-*
 2 *erans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’*
 3 *Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a*
 4 *strategy to reduce the occurrence of adverse events by im-*
 5 *proving testing for each modification or software update to*
 6 *a covered feature or underlying system or interface.*

7 (f) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

8 (1) *The term “adverse event” means, with respect*
 9 *to the covered website, including covered features—*

10 (A) *a failure to properly receive or process*
 11 *a submission;*

12 (B) *a system outage;*

13 (C) *an error in an underlying interface or*
 14 *system that prevents the transmission of data;*

15 (D) *a deficiency in information storage ca-*
 16 *capacity;*

17 (E) *a loss of data;*

18 (F) *a presentation of incorrect information;*

19 (G) *an error regarding a status notifica-*
 20 *tion; or*

21 (H) *any similar event that affects a func-*
 22 *tion of the covered website, as determined by the*
 23 *Secretary.*

24 (2) *The term “covered feature” means any fea-*
 25 *ture or function of the covered website for use in the*

1 *facilitation of the application, maintenance, or re-*
 2 *ceipt of benefits under the laws administered by the*
 3 *Secretary.*

4 (3) *The term “covered website” means the main*
 5 *internet website of the Department of Veterans Af-*
 6 *fairs.*

7 (4) *The term “significant adverse event”, with*
 8 *respect to the covered website, including covered fea-*
 9 *tures, means an adverse event that affects users of, or*
 10 *submissions to, the covered website for a period of 24*
 11 *hours or longer.*

12 (5) *The term “underlying interface or system”*
 13 *means—*

14 (A) *any information technology system that*
 15 *transmits data through, or accepts data from, a*
 16 *covered feature; or*

17 (B) *any mechanism through which any*
 18 *such information technology system connects and*
 19 *interacts with the covered website.*

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

21 *The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38,*
 22 *United States Code, is amended by striking “November 15,*
 23 *2031” each place it appears and inserting “November 28,*
 24 *2031”.*

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