

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5328

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to share veterans' contact information with State veterans agencies to improve outreach, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 6, 2026

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. ROSEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to share veterans' contact information with State veterans agencies to improve outreach, 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 “Empowering States
5 to Serve Veterans Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SHARING OF VETERANS' CONTACT INFORMATION**
7 **WITH STATE VETERANS AGENCIES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—

1 (1) REQUIREMENT.—Subject to paragraph (2),
2 not less frequently than quarterly, the Secretary of
3 Veterans Affairs shall share with each State vet-
4 erans agency contact information of veterans main-
5 tained by the Department of Veterans Affairs for
6 statistical purposes and conducting outreach to vet-
7 erans residing in that State.

8 (2) LIMITATIONS.—Contact information shared
9 under this Act shall not include—

10 (A) any protected health information (as
11 defined in section 160.103 of title 45, Code of
12 Federal Regulations (or any successor regula-
13 tions));

14 (B) any Social Security number or date of
15 birth;

16 (C) any financial, disability rating, appeal,
17 or claims information; or

18 (D) any information designated by the
19 Secretary as sensitive or restricted under Fed-
20 eral law.

21 (b) NOTICE; OPT OUT.—

22 (1) NOTICE.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
24 provide clear notice to each veteran, in paper
25 and electronic communications, that—

1 (i) the veteran's contact information
2 may be shared, for statistical and outreach
3 purposes, with the State veterans agency
4 of the State in which the veteran resides;
5 and

6 (ii) the veteran may opt out of such
7 sharing at any time.

8 (B) TIMING.—The Secretary shall provide
9 notice required by subparagraph (A)—

10 (i) 45 days before the initial transfer
11 of contact information to a State veterans
12 agency for any individual who is a veteran
13 on the date of the enactment of this Act;
14 and

15 (ii) at the time of transition from
16 military service for any individual who is a
17 member of the Armed Forces.

18 (2) OPT OUT.—

19 (A) PROCESS.—The Secretary shall estab-
20 lish and maintain an accessible process for vet-
21 erans to opt out of contact-information sharing
22 under this Act, including an online form and
23 toll-free telephone number.

24 (B) PROHIBITION.—If a veteran opts out
25 of contact-information sharing under this Act

1 through the process established under subpara-
2 graph (A)—

3 (i) the Secretary shall not share the
4 contact information of the veteran under
5 this Act unless the veteran subsequently
6 provides the Secretary affirmative consent
7 for such sharing; and

8 (ii) any State veterans agency in re-
9 ceipt of contact information of the veteran
10 shall immediately cease use of and destroy
11 that information.

12 (c) PRIVACY AND SECURITY.—

13 (1) USE AND DISCLOSURE.—Each State vet-
14 erans agency that receives contact information of
15 veterans under this Act—

16 (A) shall use such information solely for
17 statistical and outreach purposes authorized by
18 the Secretary; and

19 (B) shall not—

20 (i) sell, transfer, or otherwise disclose
21 such information to any third party; or

22 (ii) publish data based on such infor-
23 mation.

24 (2) SECURITY MEASURES.—Each State vet-
25 erans agency that receives contact information of

1 veterans under this Act shall implement data protec-
2 tion and cybersecurity measures consistent with
3 Federal standards for safeguarding personally iden-
4 tifiable information.

5 (3) COMPLIANCE.—The Secretary—

6 (A) shall require proof of compliance with
7 the measures described in paragraph (2) before
8 sharing contact information of veterans under
9 this Act with a State veterans agency;

10 (B) shall not share contact information of
11 veterans under this Act with a State veterans
12 agency that does not demonstrate compliance
13 with the requirements of this Act; and

14 (C) shall require certifications or audits to
15 ensure ongoing compliance with this Act.

16 (d) STATE VETERANS AGENCY DEFINED.—In this
17 section, the term “State veterans agency” means an agen-
18 cy of a State government that provides a range of benefits
19 and services to veterans and their families.

20 (e) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after
21 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
22 prescribe regulations to carry out this Act, including pro-
23 cedures for contact-information sharing, opt-out manage-
24 ment, and security compliance.

1 (f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsections (a) through (d)
2 shall take effect on the date that is one year after the
3 date of the enactment of this Act.

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