

111<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 5719

To amend title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop, and the Secretary of Defense to distribute to members of the Armed Forces upon their discharge or release from active duty, information in a compact disk read-only memory format or other appropriate digital format that lists and explains the health, education, and other benefits for which veterans are eligible under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 13, 2010

Mr. CARDOZA (for himself and Mr. PUTNAM) 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

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## A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop, and the Secretary of Defense to distribute to members of the Armed Forces upon their discharge or release from active duty, information in a compact disk read-only memory format or other appropriate digital format that lists and explains the health, education, and other benefits for which veterans are eligible under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

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 “Veterans’ Information  
 5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. VETERANS HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND OTHER BEN-**  
 7 **EFITS INFORMATION IN COMPACT DISK**  
 8 **READ-ONLY MEMORY FORMAT OR OTHER AP-**  
 9 **PROPRIATE DIGITAL FORMAT FOR MEMBERS**  
 10 **OF THE ARMED FORCES UPON THEIR DIS-**  
 11 **CHARGE OR RELEASE FROM ACTIVE DUTY.**

12 (a) DEVELOPMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMA-  
 13 TION.—Section 1142 of title 10, United States Code, is  
 14 amended—

15 (1) in subsection (b)(17), by inserting before  
 16 the period at the end the following: “, including,  
 17 once available, a copy of the compact disk or other  
 18 appropriate digital format developed by the Sec-  
 19 retary of Veterans Affairs under subsection (d) that  
 20 contains the information described in such sub-  
 21 section”; and

22 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
 23 sections:

24 “(d) VETERANS HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND OTHER  
 25 BENEFITS INFORMATION IN DIGITAL FORMAT.—(1) The

1 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop and maintain  
2 in a compact disk read-only memory format, or other ap-  
3 propriate digital format, certain information that the Sec-  
4 retary determines would be helpful to veterans. The infor-  
5 mation shall include the following:

6           “(A) A listing and explanation of every benefit  
7           for which veterans may be eligible under the laws  
8           administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
9           and any other applicable law, and the eligibility cri-  
10          teria for receiving each such benefit, including the  
11          range of compensation and benefits available under  
12          the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans  
13          Affairs that are based on grade, length of service,  
14          degree of disability, at separation or retirement, and  
15          other factors affecting compensation and benefits.

16           “(B) A comprehensive explanation of how vet-  
17          erans may apply for such benefits, including proce-  
18          dures, requirements, and locations for submitting  
19          applications for such benefits.

20           “(C) A listing of all facilities of the Department  
21          of Veterans Affairs and contact information for such  
22          facilities.

23           “(D) Contact information for State and local  
24          veterans agencies.

1           “(2) The compact disk or other digital format devel-  
2 oped under this subsection shall be distributed to members  
3 of the Armed Forces pursuant to subsection (b) and, upon  
4 request, to family members of members of the armed  
5 forces. If a member of the armed forces is unable to re-  
6 ceive the compact disk or other digital format, the compact  
7 disk or other digital format shall be distributed to a family  
8 member of that member of the Armed Forces, as deter-  
9 mined by the Secretary concerned pursuant to regulations  
10 prescribed for such purpose, whether the family member  
11 requests the compact disk or other format or not.

12           “(e) INTERNET WEBSITE.—The Secretary of Vet-  
13 erans Affairs, the Secretary of Defense, and the head of  
14 any other relevant Government agency shall each maintain  
15 an Internet website on which information shall be made  
16 available at all times that clearly explains the benefits ad-  
17 ministered by that Secretary or agency head to which vet-  
18 erans are entitled and how veterans can secure those bene-  
19 fits. The website shall include all of the information con-  
20 tained on the compact disk or other digital format de-  
21 scribed in subsection (d) and information about how fam-  
22 ily members of veterans may request a compact disk or  
23 other digital format pursuant to subsection (d)(2). The in-  
24 formation provided on the Internet website shall be up-  
25 dated not later than 30 days after any change affecting

1 a benefit for which veterans may be eligible goes into ef-  
2 fect.”.

3 (b) DEADLINE.—The compact disk or other digital  
4 format required by section 1142(d) of title 10, United  
5 States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall be developed  
6 and ready for distribution to members of the Armed  
7 Forces not later than one year after the date of the enact-  
8 ment of this Act.

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