

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1296

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 15, 2013

Mr. NELSON introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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 interoperable 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 “Servicemember’s Elec-
5 tronic Health Records Act of 2013”.

1 **SEC. 2. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTING INTEROPERABLE**
2 **ELECTRONIC 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 by the Department of Defense and Depart-
12 ment of Veterans Affairs that can be accessed by
13 multiple providers and standardizes the input of new
14 medical information is achieved not later than 180
15 days after the date of the enactment of this sub-
16 section;

17 “(2) the ability of patients of both the Depart-
18 ment of Defense and the Department of Veterans
19 Affairs to download the medical records of the pa-
20 tient (commonly referred to as the ‘Blue Button Ini-
21 tiative’) is achieved not later than 180 days after the
22 date of the enactment of this subsection;

23 “(3) the full interoperability of personal health
24 care information between the Departments is
25 achieved not later than one year after the date of
26 the enactment of this subsection;

1 “(4) the acceleration of the exchange of real-
2 time data between the Departments is achieved not
3 later than one year after the date of the enactment
4 of this subsection;

5 “(5) the upgrade of the graphical user interface
6 to display a joint common graphical user interface is
7 achieved not later than one year after the date of
8 the enactment of this subsection; and

9 “(6) each current member of the Armed Forces
10 and the dependent of such a member may elect to
11 receive an electronic copy of the health care record
12 of the individual beginning not later than June 30,
13 2015.”.

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

17 “(1) CLOUD STORAGE.—The Secretary of Defense
18 and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall assess the fea-
19 sibility and advisability of establishing a secure, remote,
20 network-accessible computer storage system (commonly
21 referred to as ‘cloud storage’) to—

22 “(1) provide members of the Armed Forces and
23 veterans the ability to upload the health care records
24 of the member or veteran if the member or veteran
25 elects to do so; and

1 “(2) allow medical providers of the Department
2 of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs
3 to access such records in the course of providing
4 care to the member or veteran.”.

5 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1635 of
6 such Act is further amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “The Sec-
8 retary” and inserting “In accordance with the
9 timeline described in subsection (k), the Secretary”;
10 and

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

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