

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5166

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 30, 2016

Received

AN ACT

Amend title 38, United States Code, to permit veterans to grant access to their records in the databases of the Veterans Benefits Administration to certain designated congressional employees, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Working to Integrate
3 Networks Guaranteeing Member Access Now Act” or the
4 “WINGMAN Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. PROVISION OF ACCESS TO CASE-TRACKING INFOR-**
6 **MATION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 59 of title 38, United
8 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

10 **“§ 5906. Access of certain congressional employees to**
11 **veteran records**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) The Secretary shall provide
13 to each veteran who submits a claim for benefits under
14 the laws administered by the Secretary an opportunity to
15 permit a covered congressional employee employed in the
16 office of the Member of Congress representing the district
17 where the veteran resides to have access to all of the
18 records of the veteran in the databases of the Veterans
19 Benefits Administration.

20 “(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
21 upon receipt of permission from the veteran under para-
22 graph (1), the Secretary shall provide read-only access to
23 such records to such a covered congressional employee in
24 a manner that does not allow such employee to modify
25 the data contained in such records or in any part of a
26 database of the Veterans Benefits Administration.

1 “(3) A Member of Congress may designate not more
2 than two employees of the Member as covered congres-
3 sional employees.

4 “(b) COVERED CONGRESSIONAL EMPLOYEES.—(1)
5 In this section, a covered congressional employee is a per-
6 manent, full-time employee of a Member of Congress—

7 “(A) whose responsibilities include assisting the
8 constituents of the Member with issues regarding de-
9 partments or agencies of the Federal Government;

10 “(B) who satisfies the criteria required by the
11 Secretary for recognition as an agent or attorney
12 under this chapter; and

13 “(C) who is designated by a Member of Con-
14 gress as a covered congressional employee for pur-
15 poses of this section.

16 “(2) The Secretary may not impose any requirement
17 other than the requirements under paragraph (1) before
18 treating an employee as a covered congressional employee
19 for purposes of this section.

20 “(c) NONRECOGNITION.—A covered congressional
21 employee may not be recognized as an agent or attorney
22 under this chapter.

23 “(d) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—None of the
24 amounts made available to carry out this section may be
25 used to design, develop, or administer any training for

1 purposes of providing training to covered congressional
2 employees.

3 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—(1) No
4 additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to
5 carry out this section. This section may only be carried
6 out using amounts otherwise authorized to be appro-
7 priated.

8 “(2) For the period of fiscal years 2017 through
9 2020, not more than \$10,000,000 may be made available
10 to carry out this section.

11 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 “(1) The term ‘database of the Veterans Bene-
13 fits Administration’ means any database of the Vet-
14 erans Benefits Administration in which the records
15 of veterans relating to claims for benefits under the
16 laws administered by the Secretary are retained, in-
17 cluding information regarding medical records, com-
18 pensation and pension exams records, rating deci-
19 sions, statements of the case, supplementary state-
20 ments of the case, notices of disagreement, Form-
21 9, and any successor form.

22 “(2) The term ‘Member of Congress’ means a
23 Representative, a Senator, a Delegate to Congress,
24 or the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
2 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
3 at the end the following new item:

“5906. Access of certain congressional employees to veteran records.”.

Passed the House of Representatives November 29,
2016.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.