

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118-

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OFFERED BY MS. BROWNLEY OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle A of title XVIII, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 18__ . DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COLLEC-**
2 **TION AND REPORTING OF DEMOGRAPHIC**
3 **DATA ON VETERANS.**

4 (a) DEMOGRAPHIC DATA OF VETERANS: COLLEC-
5 TION; RETENTION; PUBLICATION.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 5
7 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by in-
8 serting after section 527, the following new section:

9 **“§ 528. Demographic data of veterans: collection; re-**
10 **tention; publication.**

11 “(a) DATABASE.—(1) The Secretary shall collect de-
12 mographic data of veterans (from any source of such data
13 available to the Secretary, including the National Center
14 for Veterans Analysis and Statistics of the Department,
15 the Bureau of the Census, and the Social Security Admin-
16 istration) and maintain a database of such data.

17 “(2) Data collected and maintained under paragraph
18 (1) shall include the following:

1 “(A) Sex.

2 “(B) Gender identity, disaggregated by—

3 “(i) male;

4 “(ii) female;

5 “(iii) cisgender;

6 “(iv) transgender;

7 “(v) gender diverse;

8 “(vi) nonbinary; and

9 “(vii) combinations of clauses (i) through

10 (vi).

11 “(C) Age.

12 “(D) Educational level.

13 “(E) Race and ethnicity, disaggregated by—

14 “(i) membership in an Indian tribe (as de-
15 fined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determina-
16 tion and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.
17 5304)); and

18 “(ii) the same major race groups as the de-
19 cennial censuses.

20 “(F) Sexual orientation, disaggregated by—

21 “(i) heterosexual;

22 “(ii) lesbian;

23 “(iii) gay;

24 “(iv) bisexual; and

25 “(v) queer.

1 “(G) Household makeup, including marital sta-
2 tus and number of dependents.

3 “(H) Gross income and sources of income.

4 “(I) Housing status, disaggregated by—

5 “(i) renter;

6 “(ii) homeowner; or

7 “(iii) residing in a home owned or rented
8 by another person.

9 “(J) Employment status, disaggregated by—

10 “(i) employed;

11 “(ii) seeking employment; and

12 “(iii) self-employed.

13 “(K) History of service in the Armed Forces,
14 disaggregated by—

15 “(i) Armed Force;

16 “(ii) regular or reserve component;

17 “(iii) service in a combat theater of oper-
18 ations or war zone;

19 “(iv) service during a period of war;

20 “(v) whether a veteran is a former prisoner
21 of war;

22 “(vi) whether the veteran was exposed to
23 dead, dying, or wounded people during active
24 military, naval, air, or space service;

1 “(vii) whether the veteran was exposed to
2 environmental hazards during active military,
3 naval, air, or space service; and

4 “(viii) whether the veteran experienced
5 military sexual trauma (as that term is defined
6 in section 1166 of this title).

7 “(L) Whether the veteran is enrolled in the pa-
8 tient enrollment system under section 1705 of this
9 title.

10 “(M) Whether the veteran has received a dis-
11 ability rating from under section 1155 of this title.

12 “(N) Location of the veteran’s residence,
13 disaggregated by—

14 “(i) rural or urban setting;

15 “(ii) distance to a facility of the Depart-
16 ment; and

17 “(iii) whether the veteran has access to
18 broadband service.

19 “(O) Any other information the Secretary de-
20 termines appropriate.

21 “(b) DATA RETENTION STANDARDS.—Demographic
22 data in the database under subsection (a) shall be—

23 “(1) anonymized to prevent the release of sen-
24 sitive personal information (as that term is defined
25 in section 5727 of this title); and

1 “(2) machine readable.

2 “(c) WEBSITE.—The Secretary shall maintain a pub-
3 licly accessible website of the Department that provides
4 access to the database under subsection (a). The Secretary
5 shall update such website not less frequently than once
6 each year.”.

7 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
8 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended
9 by inserting, after the item relating to section 527,
10 the following new item:

“528. Demographic data of veterans: collection; retention; publication.”.

11 (3) IMPLEMENTATION DATE.—The Secretary of
12 Veterans Affairs shall carry out section 528 of such
13 title, as added by this subsection, not later than 180
14 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

15 (b) REPORT ON DATA STRATEGY OF THE DEPART-
16 MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—

17 (1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one
18 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
19 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Con-
20 gress a report describing the progress, challenges,
21 performance, and opportunities of implementing the
22 data strategy of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

23 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report under this sub-
24 section shall include the following:

1 (A) Qualitative and quantitative progress
2 towards strengthening data management of the
3 Department, including business and mission im-
4 pact enabled by management of data as a stra-
5 tegic asset.

6 (B) Recommendations of the Secretary re-
7 garding legislation that may accelerate data
8 management maturity of the Department.

9 (C) Progress and results in cataloging and
10 inventorying data assets of the Department and
11 using such assets to support—

12 (i) internal evidence-based policy-
13 making; and

14 (ii) ethical and appropriate dissemina-
15 tion of statistical aggregates, data-driven
16 analysis, and open data.

17 (D) Progress in implementing require-
18 ments under chapter 35 of title 44, United
19 States Code (commonly known as the “Paper-
20 work Reduction Act”), and related data quality
21 efforts to support strategic management of data
22 collected by the Department.

23 (E) Efforts to move towards a rules-based,
24 transparent, Department-wide approach to

1 management, integration, and sharing of, and
2 access to, data.

3 (F) Recommendations of the Secretary re-
4 garding adjustments to data requirements of
5 the Department.

6 (G) Information sharing agreements and
7 outstanding requirements with other Federal
8 entities, including gaps best addressed by the
9 addition of survey questions to an existing Fed-
10 eral survey instrument.

11 (H) Progress on recently enacted public
12 laws, Executive Orders, Presidential memo-
13 randa, and outstanding recommendations of the
14 Comptroller General of the United States or an
15 inspector general as it pertains to veteran popu-
16 lation-based data collection, quality, integration,
17 sharing, interoperability, and analytics within
18 the scope of improving and ensuring equity in
19 services to veterans, their families, and other
20 beneficiaries;

21 (I) A discussion of current risk assess-
22 ments regarding data breaches and information
23 security (as those terms are defined in section
24 5727 of title 38, United States Code) of the
25 Department.

1 (J) Priority data requirements of the De-
2 partment, identified through consultation with
3 the following entities:

4 (i) The Committee on Veterans' Af-
5 fairs of the Senate and the Committee on
6 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Rep-
7 resentatives.

8 (ii) The Congressional Budget Office.

9 (iii) Veterans service organizations.

10 (iv) The Advisory Committee on Mi-
11 nority Veterans of the Department.

12 (v) The Advisory Committee on
13 Women Veterans of the Department.

14 (vi) The Advisory Committee on
15 Homeless Veterans of the Department.

16 (3) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 30 days
17 after submitting the report under this subsection,
18 the Secretary shall publish such report on the open
19 data website of the Department, with all metrics and
20 data included in a machine readable format.

