AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117–54
OFFERED BY MRS. CAROLYN B. MALONEY OF
NEW YORK

At the end of title LVIII of division E, insert the following:

SEC. 5806. ACCESS FOR VETERANS TO RECORDS.

(a) Plan to Eliminate Records Backlog at the National Personnel Records Center.—

(1) Plan Required.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Archivist of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive plan for reducing the backlog of requests for records from the National Personnel Records Center and improving the efficiency and responsiveness of operations at the National Personnel Records Center, that includes, at a minimum, the following:

(A) An estimate of the number of backlogged record requests for veterans.

(B) Target timeframes to reduce the backlog.
(C) A detailed plan for using existing funds to improve the information technology infrastructure, including secure access to appropriate agency Federal records, to prevent future backlogs.

(D) Actions to improve customer service for requesters.

(E) Measurable goals with respect to the comprehensive plan and metrics for tracking progress toward such goals.

(F) Strategies to prevent future record request backlogs, including backlogs caused by an event that prevents employees of the Center from reporting to work in person.

(2) UPDATES.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the comprehensive plan is submitted under paragraph (1), and biannually thereafter until the response rate by the National Personnel Records Center reaches 90 percent of all requests in 20 days or less, not including any request involving a record damaged or lost in the National Personnel Records Center fire of 1973 or any request that is subject to a fee that has not been paid in a timely manner by the requestor (provided the National Personnel Records Center issues an invoice
within 20 days after the date on which the request
is made), the Archivist of the United States shall
submit to the appropriate congressional committees
an update of such plan that—

(A) describes progress made by the Na-
tional Personnel Records Center during the pre-
ceding 90-day period with respect to record re-
quest backlog reduction and efficiency and re-
sponsiveness improvement;

(B) provides data on progress made to-
ward the goals identified in the comprehensive
plan; and

(C) describes any changes made to the
comprehensive plan.

(3) Consultation requirement.—In car-
rying out paragraphs (1) and (2), the Archivist of
the United States shall consult with the Secretary of
Veterans Affairs.

(4) Appropriate congressional commit-
tees defined.—In this section, the term “ap-
propriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Oversight and Re-
form and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of
the House of Representatives; and
(B) the Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs and the Committee
on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate.

(b) ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO ADDRESS RECORDS
BACKLOG.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
addition to amounts otherwise available, there is au-
thorized to be appropriated to the National Archives
and Records Administration, $60,000,000 to address
backlogs in responding to requests from veterans for
military personnel records, improve cybersecurity,
 improve digital preservation and access to archival
Federal records, and address backlogs in requests
made under section 552 of title 5, United States
Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of In-
formation Act). Such amounts may also be used for
the Federal Records Center Program.

(2) REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN IN-PERSON
STAFFING LEVELS.—Not later than 30 days after
the date of the enactment of this Act, the Archivist
of the United States shall ensure that the National
Personnel Records Center maintains staffing levels
and telework arrangements that enable the max-
imum processing of records requests possible in
order to achieve the performance goal of responding
to 90 percent of all requests in 20 days or less, not including any request involving a record damaged or lost in the National Personnel Records Center fire of 1973 or any request that is subject to a fee that has not been paid in a timely manner by the requestor (provided the National Personnel Records Center issues an invoice within 20 days after the date on which the request is made).

(3) Inspector General Reporting.—The Inspector General for the National Archives and Records Administration shall, for two years following the date of the enactment of this Act, include in every semiannual report submitted to Congress pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978, a detailed summary of—

(A) efforts taken by the National Archives and Records Administration to address the backlog of records requests at the National Personnel Records Center; and

(B) any recommendations for action proposed by the Inspector General related to reducing the backlog of records requests at the National Personnel Records Center and the status of compliance with those recommendations.
by the National Archives and Records Administration.