

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:

1 **SEC. 5806. ACCESS FOR VETERANS TO RECORDS.**

2 (a) PLAN TO ELIMINATE RECORDS BACKLOG AT THE
3 NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER.—

4 (1) PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ar-
6 chivist of the United States shall submit to the ap-
7 propriate congressional committees a comprehensive
8 plan for reducing the backlog of requests for records
9 from the National Personnel Records Center and im-
10 proving the efficiency and responsiveness of oper-
11 ations at the National Personnel Records Center,
12 that includes, at a minimum, the following:

13 (A) An estimate of the number of back-
14 logged record requests for veterans.

15 (B) Target timeframes to reduce the back-
16 log.

1 (C) A detailed plan for using existing
2 funds to improve the information technology in-
3 frastructure, including secure access to appro-
4 priate agency Federal records, to prevent future
5 backlogs.

6 (D) Actions to improve customer service
7 for requesters.

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

11 (F) Strategies to prevent future record re-
12 quest backlogs, including backlogs caused by an
13 event that prevents employees of the Center
14 from reporting to work in person.

15 (2) UPDATES.—Not later than 90 days after
16 the date on which the comprehensive plan is sub-
17 mitted under paragraph (1), and biannually there-
18 after until the response rate by the National Per-
19 sonnel Records Center reaches 90 percent of all re-
20 quests in 20 days or less, not including any request
21 involving a record damaged or lost in the National
22 Personnel Records Center fire of 1973 or any re-
23 quest that is subject to a fee that has not been paid
24 in a timely manner by the requestor (provided the
25 National Personnel Records Center issues an invoice

1 within 20 days after the date on which the request
2 is made), the Archivist of the United States shall
3 submit to the appropriate congressional committees
4 an update of such plan that—

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

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

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

15 (3) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—In car-
16 rying out paragraphs (1) and (2), the Archivist of
17 the United States shall consult with the Secretary of
18 Veterans Affairs.

19 (4) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
20 TEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appro-
21 priate congressional committees” means—

22 (A) the Committee on Oversight and Re-
23 form and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of
24 the House of Representatives; and

1 (B) the Committee on Homeland Security
2 and Governmental Affairs and the Committee
3 on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate.

4 (b) ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO ADDRESS RECORDS
5 BACKLOG.—

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

18 (2) REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN IN-PERSON
19 STAFFING LEVELS.—Not later than 30 days after
20 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Archivist
21 of the United States shall ensure that the National
22 Personnel Records Center maintains staffing levels
23 and telework arrangements that enable the max-
24 imum processing of records requests possible in
25 order to achieve the performance goal of responding

1 to 90 percent of all requests in 20 days or less, not
2 including any request involving a record damaged or
3 lost in the National Personnel Records Center fire of
4 1973 or any request that is subject to a fee that has
5 not been paid in a timely manner by the requestor
6 (provided the National Personnel Records Center
7 issues an invoice within 20 days after the date on
8 which the request is made).

9 (3) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORTING.—The In-
10 spector General for the National Archives and
11 Records Administration shall, for two years following
12 the date of the enactment of this Act, include in
13 every semiannual report submitted to Congress pur-
14 suant to the Inspector General Act of 1978, a de-
15 tailed summary of—

16 (A) efforts taken by the National Archives
17 and Records Administration to address the
18 backlog of records requests at the National Per-
19 sonnel Records Center; and

20 (B) any recommendations for action pro-
21 posed by the Inspector General related to re-
22 ducing the backlog of records requests at the
23 National Personnel Records Center and the sta-
24 tus of compliance with those recommendations

1 by the National Archives and Records Adminis-
2 tration.

