

Union Calendar No. 160

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4673

[Report No. 117-223]

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the automatic enrollment of eligible veterans in patient enrollment system of Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2021

Mr. TAKANO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Veterans' Affairs

JANUARY 6, 2022

Reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the automatic enrollment of eligible veterans in patient enrollment system of Department of Veterans Affairs, 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 “Ensuring Veterans’
5 Smooth Transition Act” or the “EVEST Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT OF ELIGIBLE VETERANS**
7 **IN PATIENT ENROLLMENT SYSTEM OF DE-**
8 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1705 of title 38, United
10 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
11 lowing new subsection:

12 “(d)(1) The Secretary shall enroll each veteran de-
13 scribed in subsection (a) in the patient enrollment system
14 under this section by not later than 60 days after receiving
15 the information described in paragraph (3) with respect
16 to the veteran.

17 “(2) Not later than 60 days after enrolling a veteran
18 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide to the
19 veteran—

20 “(A) notice of the veteran’s enrollment; and

21 “(B) instructions for how the veteran may opt
22 out of such enrollment, at the election of the vet-
23 eran.

24 “(3) The information described in this paragraph is
25 the appropriate information concerning eligibility for en-

1 rollment in the patient enrollment system under this sec-
2 tion, as provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center
3 of the Department of Defense, or such successor entity
4 of the Department.”.

5 (b) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (d) of section 1705
6 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection
7 (a), shall apply to a veteran with respect to whom the Sec-
8 retary receives the information described in paragraph (3)
9 of such subsection on or after the date of the enactment
10 of this Act.

11 (c) ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATES OF ELIGIBILITY FOR
12 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PATIENT ENROLL-
13 MENT SYSTEM.—Not later than August 1, 2022, the Sec-
14 retary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that any veteran
15 who is eligible for automatic enrollment in the patient en-
16 rollment system under subsection (d) of section 1705 of
17 title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a),
18 is able to access—

19 (1) an electronic version of the certificate of eli-
20 gibility showing the veteran’s eligibility for such en-
21 rollment; and

22 (2) an electronic mechanism by which the vet-
23 eran may opt out of such enrollment.

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