

## HR 4588

Modernizing VA's Records Management Program Act

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Armed Forces and National Security

**Introduced:** Oct 1, 2019

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. (Oct 14, 2019)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/4588>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Cox, TJ [D-CA-21]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (23 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. Radewagen, Aumua Amata Coleman [R-AS-At Large]	R · AS		Oct 1, 2019
Rep. Lee, Susie [D-NV-3]	D · NV		Oct 1, 2019
Rep. Steube, W. Gregory [R-FL-17]	R · FL		Oct 1, 2019
Rep. Bishop, Sanford D., Jr. [D-GA-2]	D · GA		Oct 8, 2019
Rep. Costa, Jim [D-CA-16]	D · CA		Oct 8, 2019
Rep. Barragan, Nanette Diaz [D-CA-44]	D · CA		Oct 11, 2019
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3]	D · AZ		Oct 11, 2019
Rep. Harder, Josh [D-CA-10]	D · CA		Oct 11, 2019
Rep. Tipton, Scott R. [R-CO-3]	R · CO		Oct 15, 2019
Rep. Grothman, Glenn [R-WI-6]	R · WI		Oct 16, 2019
Rep. Crenshaw, Dan [R-TX-2]	R · TX		Oct 23, 2019
Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9]	D · FL		Oct 23, 2019
Rep. Demings, Val Butler [D-FL-10]	D · FL		Nov 8, 2019
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Nov 8, 2019
Rep. Khanna, Ro [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Nov 13, 2019
Rep. Kelly, Mike [R-PA-16]	R · PA		Nov 15, 2019
Rep. Brooks, Susan W. [R-IN-5]	R · IN		Nov 19, 2019
Rep. Keating, William R. [D-MA-9]	D · MA		Nov 20, 2019
Rep. Phillips, Dean [D-MN-3]	D · MN		Nov 20, 2019
Resident Commissioner González-Colón, Jenniffer [R-PR-At Large]	R · PR		Nov 20, 2019
Rep. Rouda, Harley [D-CA-48]	D · CA		Dec 6, 2019
Rep. Morelle, Joseph D. [D-NY-25]	D · NY		Jan 15, 2020
Rep. Zeldin, Lee M. [R-NY-1]	R · NY		Mar 10, 2020

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Oct 14, 2019
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Oct 14, 2019

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

## Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

## Summary (as of Oct 1, 2019)

### Modernizing VA's Records Management Program Act

This bill authorizes the treatment of digitized records (e.g., photographs or files) as original documents for purposes of claims under laws of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), so long as the digitized versions are made in compliance with document disposal laws.

Under the bill, the VA may not be required to produce or retain original physical files or records, including for proceedings occurring at the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

The bill requires the VA to implement a process to ensure a digitized record pertaining to a claim is (1) of sufficient quality to be viewed and read on an electronic screen, and (2) an accurate reproduction of the original file or document.

The VA must return an original document or file to a claimant once the digitized version has been made.

Finally, the VA must resolve any doubt regarding the accuracy of a digitized file or document pertaining to a claim in favor of the claimant if (1) the VA did not implement the process to ensure the quality and accuracy of the digitized version, (2) the claimant presents credible evidence that there is a deficiency or alteration to the file, or (3) the claimant presents credible evidence that such digitized version is missing from VA records.

## Actions Timeline

- **Oct 14, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.
- **Oct 14, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.
- **Oct 1, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Oct 1, 2019:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.