

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3809

To require electronic medical records at the Department of State for Foreign Service personnel.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 27, 2024

Mr. RISCH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## A BILL

To require electronic medical records at the Department of State for Foreign Service personnel.

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 “Electronic Medical  
5 Records for Foreign Service Personnel Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

8 (1) Foreign Service personnel at the Depart-  
9 ment of State often serve with distinction in austere

1 places and under challenging conditions around the  
2 world with limited healthcare availability;

3 (2) the Department's exclusive use of paper  
4 medical records, which require Foreign Service per-  
5 sonnel to carry their protected health information  
6 from post to post, puts our diplomats in danger by  
7 limiting the availability of their health information  
8 to Department medical personnel during critical  
9 health incidents;

10 (3) electronic medical records are necessary,  
11 particularly as the Department opens new embassies  
12 in the South Pacific, thousands of miles from the  
13 nearest Department medical officer, who may not  
14 have access to up-to-date personnel medical files;

15 (4) the lack of electronic medical records is  
16 even more important for mental health records, as  
17 the Department only has a small number of regional  
18 medical officer psychiatrists and relies heavily on  
19 telehealth for most Foreign Service personnel; and

20 (5) due to the critical need for electronic med-  
21 ical records, it is imperative that the Department  
22 address the situation quickly and focus on commer-  
23 cially available solutions from contractors who have  
24 a track record of successfully implementing large-  
25 scale projects of this type.

1 **SEC. 3. ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS REQUIREMENT.**

2 Not later than December 31, 2027, the Secretary of  
3 State shall have fully implemented an electronic medical  
4 records system for all Foreign Service personnel that  
5 eliminates reliance on paper medical records and includes  
6 appropriate safeguards to protect personal privacy.

7 **SEC. 4. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
9 date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days  
10 thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to the ap-  
11 propriate congressional committees a report on the  
12 progress made towards meeting the requirement under  
13 section 3.

14 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under sub-  
15 section (a) shall include the following elements:

- 16 (1) An updated timeline for implementation.  
17 (2) An estimated completion date.  
18 (3) The amounts expended to date on the re-  
19 quired electronic medical records system.  
20 (4) The estimated amount needed to complete  
21 the system.

22 (c) TERMINATION OF REQUIREMENT.—The reporting  
23 requirement under subsection (a) shall cease upon notifi-  
24 cation to the appropriate congressional committees that  
25 electronic medical records have been completely imple-  
26 mented for all Foreign Service personnel.

1 (d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES

2 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-

3 gressional committees” means—

4 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and  
5 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

6 (2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the  
7 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-  
8 resentatives.

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