

VETERAN LEGISLATION

13 January 2011

Of the 261 House and zero Senate pieces of legislation introduced in the 112th Congress to date, the following are of interest to the non-active duty veteran community. A good indication on the likelihood of a bill of being forwarded to the House or Senate for passage and subsequently being signed into law by the President is the number of cosponsors who have signed onto the bill. An alternate way for it to become law is if it is added as an addendum to another bill such as the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and survives the conference committee assigned to iron out the difference between the House and Senate bills. At <http://thomas.loc.gov> you can review a copy of each bill's text, determine its current status, the committee it has been assigned to, who your representative is and his/her phone number, mailing address, or email/website to communicate with a message or letter of your own making, and if your legislator is a sponsor or cosponsor of it. To separately determine what bills, amendments your representative has sponsored, cosponsored, or dropped sponsorship on refer to <http://thomas.loc.gov/bss/d111/sponlst.html>. To review a numerical list of all bills introduced refer to <http://thomas.loc.gov/bss/111search.html>.

The Following Color Codes Apply to the Bills Listed Below

1. Bills that are being pushed by various veterans groups for passage include a website highlighted in red which if clicked on will take the reader to a preformatted message for automatic transmission to their legislator requesting he/she support the bill.
2. Bill numbers that have passed either the House or Senate and have been forwarded to the other chamber for action are highlighted in Green.
3. Bills that have passed both chambers of Congress and been signed into law are highlighted in Blue.
4. Bills that the RAO considers to have the highest priority are highlighted in Yellow.
5. Bill numbers that have been incorporated in other bills are highlighted in Gray.
6. Bill numbers and titles in vilot (if any) are new additions to this summary.

House Bills

H.R.23 : Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2011 to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish the Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service)

during World War II.

Sponsor: Rep Filner, Bob [CA-51] (introduced 1/5/2011) Cosponsors (2)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/5/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.28 : Veterans Outreach Improvement Act of 2011 to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the outreach activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep McIntyre, Mike [NC-7] (introduced 1/5/2011) Cosponsors (None)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/5/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.46 : Fallen Heroes Family Act of 2011 to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for nonimmigrant status for an alien who is the parent or legal guardian of a United States citizen child if the child was born abroad and is the child of a deceased member of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Sponsor: Rep Issa, Darrell E. [CA-49] (introduced 1/5/2011) Cosponsors (None)

Committees: House Judiciary

Latest Major Action: 1/5/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R.79 : Abused Dependents of Veterans Health Care Eligibility. To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide certain abused dependents of veterans with health care.

Sponsor: Rep Jackson Lee, Sheila [TX-18] (introduced 1/5/2011) Cosponsors (None)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/5/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.115 : CHAMPVA Maximum Age for Child Enrollment. To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program.

Sponsor: Rep Filner, Bob [CA-51] (introduced 1/5/2011) Cosponsors (None)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/5/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.117 : VA Law Improvements. To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep Filner, Bob [CA-51] (introduced 1/5/2011) Cosponsors (None)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/5/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.120 : Surviving Spouses Housing Loans. To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for eligibility for housing loans guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs for the surviving spouses of certain totally-disabled veterans.

Sponsor: Rep Foxx, Virginia [NC-5] (introduced 1/5/2011) Cosponsors (5)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/5/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.136 : Taxpayer Payment Designation to Homeless Vets. To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow taxpayers to designate a portion of their income tax payment to provide assistance to homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep Israel, Steve [NY-2] (introduced 1/5/2011) Cosponsors (3)

Committees: House Ways and Means; House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/5/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R.159 : VA Payment for TBI & PTSD Pilot Program. To direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program under which the Secretaries make payments for certain treatments of traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Sponsor: Rep Sessions, Pete [TX-32] (introduced 1/5/2011) Cosponsors (None)

Committees: House Armed Services; House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/5/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R.168 : VA Care for Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of veterans with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Sponsor: Rep Stearns, Cliff [FL-6] (introduced 1/5/2011) Cosponsors (None)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/5/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.169 : Publicize VA VetSuccess Internet Website. To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to include on the main page of the Internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs a hyperlink to the VetSuccess Internet website and to publicize such Internet website.

Sponsor: Rep Stearns, Cliff [FL-6] (introduced 1/5/2011) Cosponsors (None)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/5/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.178 : SBP DIC Offset Elimination. To amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan for military surviving spouses to offset the

receipt of veterans dependency and indemnity compensation.

Sponsor: Rep Wilson, Joe [SC-2] (introduced 1/5/2011) Cosponsors (None)

Committees: House Armed Services

Latest Major Action: 1/5/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services.

To support this bill and/or contact your legislators send a message via

<http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=21785541&type=CO>

H.R.179 : Health Care for Under 60 Retired Reserves. To amend title 10, United States Code, to eliminate the requirement that certain former members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces be at least 60 years of age in order to be eligible to receive health care benefits.

Sponsor: Rep Wilson, Joe [SC-2] (introduced 1/5/2011) Cosponsors (None)

Committees: House Armed Services

Latest Major Action: 1/5/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services.

H.R.181 : Reserve Credit for Service Since 911. To amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who have served on active duty or performed active service since September 11, 2001, in support of a contingency operation or in other emergency situations receive credit for such service in determining eligibility for early receipt of non-regular service retired pay, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep Wilson, Joe [SC-2] (introduced 1/5/2011) Cosponsors (None)

Committees: House Armed Services

Latest Major Action: 1/5/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services.

H.R.186 : Chapter 61 CRDP Eligibility. To amend title 10, United States Code, to expand the eligibility for concurrent receipt of military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation to include all members of the uniformed services who are retired under chapter 61 of such title for disability, regardless of the members' disability rating percentage.

Sponsor: Rep Wilson, Joe [SC-2] (introduced 1/5/2011) Cosponsors (None)

Committees: House Armed Services; House Budget; House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/5/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on the Budget, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

To support this bill and/or contact your legislators send a message via

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=21781506&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=21781506&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.198 : VA Dog Training Therapy Pilot Program. To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on dog training therapy.

Sponsor: Rep Grimm, Michael G. [NY-13] (introduced 1/6/2011) Cosponsors (3)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/6/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

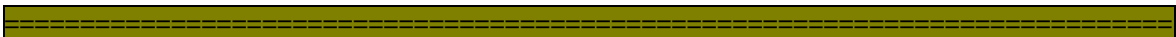
H.R.208 : Tricare Mental Health Counselor Reimbursement. To amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the reimbursement of mental health counselors under TRICARE, and for other purposes.
Sponsor: Rep Rooney, Thomas J. [FL-16] (introduced 1/6/2011) Cosponsors (1)
Committees: House Armed Services
Latest Major Action: 1/6/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services.

H.R.210 : WWII Philippine Vet Eligibility for VA Benefits. To amend title 38, United States Code, to deem certain service in the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts to have been active service for purposes of benefits under programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
Sponsor: Rep Speier, Jackie [CA-12] (introduced 1/6/2011) Cosponsors (None)
Committees: House Veterans' Affairs
Latest Major Action: 1/6/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.238 : Military Retiree Medicare Part B Premium Refund. To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable credit to military retirees for premiums paid for coverage under Medicare Part B.
Sponsor: Rep Emerson, Jo Ann [MO-8] (introduced 1/7/2011) Cosponsors (None)
Committees: House Ways and Means
Latest Major Action: 1/7/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R.240 : Promote Vet Jobs with DVA Sole Source Contracts. To amend title 38, United States Code, to promote jobs for veterans through the use of sole source contracts by Department of Veterans Affairs for purposes of meeting the contracting goals and preferences of the Department of Veterans Affairs for small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans.
Sponsor: Rep Filner, Bob [CA-51] (introduced 1/7/2011) Cosponsors (None)
Committees: House Veterans' Affairs
Latest Major Action: 1/7/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.248 : Depleted Uranium Vet Exposure. To provide for identification of members of the Armed Forces exposed during military service to depleted uranium, to provide for health testing of such members, and for other purposes.
Sponsor: Rep Serrano, Jose E. [NY-16] (introduced 1/7/2011) Cosponsors (None)
Committees: House Armed Services
Latest Major Action: 1/7/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services.



Senate Bills

None to date

[Source: <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/LegislativeData.php?n=Browse> 13Jan 2011 ++]