

VETERAN LEGISLATION

28 January 2011

Of the 518 House and 223 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.** A bill 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 (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.28 : Veterans Outreach Improvement Act of 2011. A bill 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. A bill 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: 1/24/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration Policy and Enforcement.

H.R.79 : Dependent Care Act of 2011. A bill 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 Children's Protection Act of 2011. A bill 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 : HELP Veterans Act of 2011. A bill 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 : Disabled Veterans' Surviving Spouses Home Loans Act. A bill 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 (8)

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. A bill 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 (5)

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 : TBI Treatment Act. A bill 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. A bill 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. A bill 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 : Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act. A bill 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 (12)

Committees: House Armed Services

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

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H.R.179 : Health Care for Under 60 Retired Reserves. A bill 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 : National Guardsmen and Reservists Parity for Patriots Act. A bill 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 (1)

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. A bill 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 (5)

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.

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H.R.198 : Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act. A bill 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 (20)

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. A bill 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 : Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011. A bill 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 Health Care Relief Act of 2011. A bill 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.
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H.R.240 : Promote Vet Jobs with DVA Sole Source Contracts. A bill 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 Screening and Testing Act. A bill 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.

H.R.284 : Veterans, Women, Families with Children, and Persons With Disabilities Housing Fairness Act of 2011. A bill to authorize funds to prevent housing discrimination through the use of nationwide testing, to increase funds for the Fair Housing Initiatives Program, and for other purposes.
Sponsor: Rep Green, Al [TX-9] (introduced 1/12/2011) Cosponsors (14)
Committees: House Financial Services
Latest Major Action: 1/12/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

H.R.287 : Homes for Heroes Act of 2011. A bill to provide housing assistance for very low-income veterans.
Sponsor: Rep Green, Al [TX-9] (introduced 1/12/2011) Cosponsors (19)
Committees: House Financial Services; House Ways and Means
Latest Major Action: 1/12/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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.303 : Retired Pay Restoration Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation and to eliminate the phase-in period under current law with respect to such concurrent receipt.
Sponsor: Rep Bilirakis, Gus M. [FL-9] (introduced 1/18/2011) Cosponsors (2)
Committees: House Armed Services; House Veterans' Affairs
Latest Major Action: 1/18/2011 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.309 : Samuel B. Moody Bataan Death March Compensation Act. A bill to provide compensation for certain World War II veterans who survived the Bataan Death March and were held as prisoners of war by the Japanese.
Sponsor: Rep Mica, John L. [FL-7] (introduced 1/18/2011) Cosponsors (None)
Committees: House Armed Services
Latest Major Action: 1/18/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services.

H.R.319 : Veterans Day Off Act. A bill to require employers to provide veterans with time off on Veterans Day.
Sponsor: Rep Braley, Bruce L. [IA-1] (introduced 1/19/2011) Cosponsors (None)
Committees: House Education and the Workforce
Latest Major Action: 1/19/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

H.R.333 : The Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to

permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans' disability compensation, to eliminate the phase-in period for concurrent receipt, to extend eligibility for concurrent receipt to chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep Bishop, Sanford D., Jr. [GA-2] (introduced 1/19/2011) Cosponsors (85)

Committees: House Armed Services; House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/19/2011 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.

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H.R.396 : TBI Treatment Act. A bill 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 1/24/2011) Cosponsors (2)

Committees: House Armed Services; House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/24/2011 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.420 : Vet Firearms Registration Amnesty. A bill to provide an amnesty period during which veterans and their family members can register certain firearms in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep Rehberg, Denny [MT] (introduced 1/25/2011) Cosponsors (1)

Committees: House Judiciary; House Ways and Means

Latest Major Action: 1/25/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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.493 : Deceased Military Retiree Overpayment Forgiveness. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for forgiveness of certain overpayments of retired pay paid to deceased retired members of the Armed Forces following their death.

Sponsor: Rep Jones, Walter B., Jr. [NC-3] (introduced 1/26/2011) Cosponsors (None)

Committees: House Armed Services

Latest Major Action: 1/26/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services.

Senate Bills

S.63 : **WWII Filipino Vet Claims.** A bill to require the Secretary of the Army to determine the validity of the claims of certain Filipinos that they performed military service on behalf of the United States during World War II.

Sponsor: Sen Inouye, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 1/25/2011) Cosponsors (None)

Committees: Senate Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/25/2011 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.67 : **Disabled Vet Space "A" Travel.** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit former members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces are entitled to travel on such aircraft.

Sponsor: Sen Inouye, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 1/25/2011) Cosponsors (None)

Committees: Senate Armed Services

Latest Major Action: 1/25/2011 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

S.68 : **POW Commissary/Exchange Use.** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize certain disabled former prisoners of war to use Department of Defense commissary and exchange stores.

Sponsor: Sen Inouye, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 1/25/2011) Cosponsors (None)

Committees: Senate Armed Services

Latest Major Action: 1/25/2011 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

S.70 : **Restore Memorial Day Observance.** A bill to restore the traditional day of observance of Memorial Day, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen Inouye, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 1/25/2011) Cosponsors (None)

Committees: Senate Judiciary

Latest Major Action: 1/25/2011 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S.146 : **Vet Work Opportunity Credit.** A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the work opportunity credit to certain recently discharged veterans.

Sponsor: Sen Baucus, Max [MT] (introduced 1/25/2011) Cosponsors (3)

Committees: Senate Finance

Latest Major Action: 1/25/2011 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

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

