

## 113<sup>th</sup> Congress Veteran Legislation 15 May 2014

At present 8,274 bills and resolutions containing 3,716 amendments have been introduced the United States Congress. Of those, on average only about 5% will become law. They must be enacted before the end of the 2013-2015 session of the 113th Congress sometime before 3 JAN 2015. To date only 199 laws, of which only a few were veteran related, have been passed by both chambers and sent to the President for signature of which he has vetoed none. This is only 1.46% of all introduced bills being signed into law. Thus the 113th Congress is often referred to as a "Do-nothing Congress".

As of 27 APR, of the 4655 House and 2315 Senate bills introduced in the 113th Congress, the ones listed below 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.

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### **Bills that have become Law:**

S.25 — 113th Congress (2013-2014)

To ensure that the reduced annual cost-of-living adjustment to the retired pay of members and former members of the Armed Forces under the age of 62 required by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 will not apply to members or former members who first became members prior to January 1, 2014, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen. Hatch, Orrin G. [R-UT] (Introduced 01/22/2013)

Cosponsors: 1

Latest Action: **02/15/2014 Became Public Law No: 113-82.**

Tracker: This bill has the status Became Law

### **S893: Veterans Compensation Cost –of-Living Adjustment Act of 2013**

5/8/2013--Introduced.

Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2013 - Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to increase, as of December 1, 2013, the rates of veterans' disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, the clothing allowance for certain disabled veterans, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children. Requires each such increase to be the same percentage as the increase in benefits provided under title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) of the Social Security Act, on the same effective date.

Sponsor: Senator Bernard Sanders

Cosponsors: 17

Latest Major Action: 6/12/13: hearing held by Committee on Veterans Affairs; 7/24/13: ordered to be reported favorably without amendment; 9/4/13: placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar no. 165. 10/29/2013 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. 11/12/13: passed in the House. 11/14/13: presented to the President.

Latest Major Action: **Became Public Law No: 113-52**

S.210 : **Stolen Valor Act of 2013.** A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to fraudulent representations about having received military declarations or medals.

Sponsor: Sen Heller, Dean [NV] (introduced 2/4/2013)

Cosponsors: 22

Related Bills: H.R.258

Latest Major Action: 2/4/2013 Referred to Senate committee.

Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**NOTE: became public law 113-12 on 6/3/13**

H.R.258 : **Stolen Valor Act of 2013.** A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to fraudulent representations about having received military declarations or medals.

Sponsor: Rep Heck, Joseph J. [NV-3] (introduced 1/15/2013)

Related Bills: S.210

Committees: House Judiciary

Latest Major Action: 5/20/2013 Passed/agreed to in House.

Status: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 390 - 3 (Roll no. 161).

**Became Public Law No: 113-12 on 6/3/13**

### **Surviving Spouses:**

H.R.32 : **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.

#### **SUMMARY AS OF:**

1/3/2013--Introduced. *Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act - Repeals certain provisions which require the offset of amounts paid in dependency and indemnity compensation from Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities for the surviving spouses of former military personnel who are entitled to military retired pay or who would be entitled to retired pay except for being under 60 years of age. Prohibits requiring repayment of certain amounts previously paid to SBP recipients in the form of a retired pay refund. Repeals the optional authority of (and instead requires) the Secretary of the military department concerned to pay an annuity to a member's dependent children when there is no eligible surviving spouse. Directs the Secretary concerned to restore annuity eligibility to a surviving spouse who earlier agreed to transfer such eligibility to a surviving child or children of a member.*

Sponsor: Rep Wilson, Joe [SC-2] (introduced 1/3/2013)

Related Bills: S.734

Cosponsors: 205

Committees: House Armed Services

Latest Major Action: 1/31/2013 Referred to House committee.

Status: Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services; referred to Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

S.734 : **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 by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation.

#### **SUMMARY AS OF:**

4/16/2013--Introduced. *Repeals certain provisions which require the offset of amounts paid in dependency and indemnity compensation from Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities for the surviving spouses of former military personnel who are entitled to military retired pay or would be entitled to such pay, except for being under 60 years of age. Prohibits recoupment by the Secretary of Defense (DOD) of certain amounts previously paid to SBP recipients in the form of a*

*retired pay refund. Repeals the optional authority of (and instead requires) the Secretary of the military department concerned to pay an annuity to a member's dependent children when there is no eligible surviving spouse. Directs the Secretary concerned to restore annuity eligibility to a surviving spouse who earlier agreed to transfer such eligibility to a surviving child or children of a member.*

Sponsor: Sen Nelson, Bill [FL] (introduced 4/16/2013)

Related Bill.: H.R. 32

Cosponsors: 33

Committees: Senate Armed Services

Latest Major Action: 4/16/2013 Referred to Senate committee.

Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

H.R.4274 : Honoring the Families of Fallen Soldiers Act Funding. A bill to amend the Honoring the Families of Fallen Soldiers Act to provide a permanent appropriation of funds for the payment of death gratuities for survivors of deceased members of the uniformed services in event of any future period of lapsed appropriations.

Sponsor: Rep. Barber, Ron [D-AZ-2] (Introduced 03/18/2014)

Cosponsors: 0

Latest Action: 03/18/2014 Referred to the House Committee on Appropriations.

### **Retired and Disabled Pay and Pensions:**

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-12] (introduced 1/15/2013)

Related Bills: S.234

Cosponsors: 86

Committees: House Armed Services; House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/15/2013 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. 2/4/13: referred to Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

S.234 : **Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2013.** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services 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 for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen Reid, Harry [NV] (introduced 2/7/2013)

Related Bills: H.R.303

Cosponsors: 20

Committees: Senate Armed Services

Latest Major Action: 2/7/2013 Referred to Senate committee.

Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

H.R.333 : **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 1/22/2013)

Cosponsors: 120

Committees: House Armed Services; House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/22/2013 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. 2/4/13: referred to Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

**H.R.570 : American Heroes COLA Act.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans.

Sponsor: Rep Runyan, Jon [NJ-3] (introduced 2/6/2013)

Related Bills: H.R.569

Cosponsors: 39

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 2/6/2013 Referred to House committee.

Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. 5/21/13: reported out of Committee on Veterans Affairs. 5/21/13: Passed House. 5/22/13: Referred to Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. 05/22/2013 Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

**H.R.4095 : Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2014.** A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2014, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep Runyan, Jon [NJ-3] (introduced 2/26/2014); 1 cosponsor;

Related Bills: H.R.569, H.R.570, H.R.4096, S.893

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 3/7/2014 Referred to House subcommittee.

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

**H.R.4096 : American Heroes COLA Act of 2014.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans.

Sponsor: Rep Runyan, Jon [NJ-3] (introduced 2/26/2014); 1 cosponsor;

Related Bills: H.R.569, H.R.570, H.R.4095, S.893

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 3/7/2014 Referred to House subcommittee.

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

### **Veteran Education:**

**HR 357: GI Bill Tuition Fairness Act.** Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA), for purposes of the educational assistance programs administered by the Secretary, to disapprove courses of education provided by a public educational institution that does not charge tuition and fees for veterans at the same rate that is charged for in-state residents, regardless of the veteran's state of residence. Provides for the treatment of veterans enrolled in courses at such institutions before July 1, 2015.

Sponsor: Rep Jeff Miller (R-FL-1); co-sponsors: 50

Latest action: passed House; 2/4/14: received in Senate, read twice, referred to the Committee on Veterans Affairs

#### S257 GI Bill Tuition Fairness Act of 2013

Sponsor: Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR] (Introduced 02/07/2013)

Cosponsors: 6

Latest Action: 06/12/2013 Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held.

S.514 : Post 911 Vet Educational Assistance. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide additional educational assistance under Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to veterans pursuing a degree in science, technology, engineering, math, or an area that leads to employment in a high-demand occupation, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen Brown, Sherrod [OH] (introduced 3/11/2013)

Co-sponsors: 0

Related Bills: H.R.1816

Committees: Senate Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 6/12/2013 Senate committee/subcommittee actions.

Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held.

#### H.R.1816

Veterans' STEM Education Program

Sponsor: Rep. Veasey, Marc A. [D-TX-33] (Introduced 04/26/2013)

Cosponsors: 10

Latest Action: 05/08/2013 Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.

H.R.4314 : Disabled Vet Student Loan Repayment Program. . A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a student loan repayment program for totally disabled veterans.

Sponsor: Rep. Ribble, Reid J. [R-WI-8] (Introduced 03/26/2014)

Cosponsors: 1

Latest Action: 03/26/2014 Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. 04/04/2014 Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.

### **Agent Orange and Gulf War Illness:**

#### H.R.543

Latest Title: **Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

*Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013 - Includes as part of the Republic of Vietnam its territorial seas for purposes of the presumption of service connection for diseases associated with exposure by veterans to certain herbicide agents while in Vietnam.*

Sponsor: Rep Gibson, Christopher P. [NY-19] (introduced 2/6/2013)

Cosponsors: 197

Latest Major Action: 2/15/2013 Referred to House subcommittee.

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

H.R.1494 : **Blue Water Navy Ship Accountability Act.** To direct the Secretary of Defense to review the operation of certain ships during the Vietnam Era, and for other purposes.

#### **SUMMARY AS OF:**

4/11/2013--Introduced.

*Blue Water Navy Ship Accountability Act - Directs the Secretary of Defense (DOD) to: (1) review the logs of each Navy ship known to have operated in the waters near Vietnam during the Vietnam Era (January 9, 1962, through May 7, 1975); (2) determine, for each such ship, the date(s) so operated and its closest proximity to shore during such operation; and (3) provide such*

*information to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA). Requires the VA Secretary to make such unclassified information publicly available.*

Sponsor: Rep Gibson, Christopher P. [NY-19] (introduced 4/11/2013)

Cosponsors: 40

Committees: House Armed Services; House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 4/11/2013 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.

4/26/13: referred to Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. 6/28/13:

Subcommittee hearings held. 7/23/13: Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial

Affairs discharged. 7/23/2013 House committee/subcommittee actions. Status: Subcommittee on

Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Discharged.

**H.R.2519 : Assistance to Agent Orange Exposed Individuals.** A bill to direct the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide assistance for individuals affected by exposure to Agent Orange, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep Lee, Barbara [CA-13] (introduced 6/26/2013)

Co-sponsors: 12

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs; House Energy and Commerce; House Foreign Affairs

Latest Major Action: 6/26/2013 Referred to House committee.

Status: Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Foreign 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. 7/8/13: referred to Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial

Affairs

**S.1602:** A bill to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for the diagnosis, treatment, and research of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces, to provide certain services to those descendants, to establish an advisory board on exposure to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

**Sponsor:** [Sen Blumenthal, Richard](#) [CT] (introduced 10/29/2013) Cosponsors: 1

**Latest Major Action:** 10/29/2013 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

**H.R.4261 : Gulf War Health Research Reform Act of 2014.** A bill to improve the research of Gulf War Illness, the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Coffman, Mike [R-CO-6] (Introduced 03/14/2014)

Cosponsors: 8

Latest Action: 03/25/2014 Subcommittee Hearings Held.

### **Guard and Reserve:**

**S.629 : Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act of 2013.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen Pryor, Mark L. [AR] (introduced 3/20/2013)

Related bills: H.R.679

Cosponsors: 25

Committees: Senate Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 3/20/2013 Referred to Senate committee.

Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. 6/12/13: hearings held by Committee on Veterans Affairs.

**H.R.679 : Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law.

Sponsor: Rep Walz, Timothy J. [MN-1] (introduced 2/13/2013)

Related bills: S. 629

Cosponsors: 60

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 2/22/2013 Referred to House subcommittee.

Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. 4/17/13: subcommittee hearings held.

**H.R.1405** "Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act," passed the House on October 28 of this year. That bill grants veteran status to all honorably retired Reservists. It states, a retired Reservist "entitled under such chapter to retired pay for nonregular service shall be honored as a veteran..."

**Latest Title:** To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to include a notice of disagreement form in any notice of decision issued for the denial of a benefit sought, to improve the supervision of fiduciaries of veterans under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

**Sponsor:** [Rep Titus, Dina](#) [NV-1] (introduced 3/25/2013) [Cosponsors](#) (9)

**Latest Major Action:** 10/29/2013 Referred to Senate committee.

Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

**House Reports:** [113-130](#)

**H.R.1770 : Correct Reserve SBP Inequities.** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to eliminate the different treatment under the Survivor Benefit Plan accorded members of the reserve components who die from an injury or illness incurred or aggravated in the line of duty during inactive-duty training compared to members of the Armed Forces who die in the line of duty while on active duty.

Sponsor: Rep Chaffetz, Jason [UT-3] (introduced 4/26/2013)

Cosponsors: 10

Committees: House Armed Services

Latest Major Action: 5/6/2013 Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

**H.R.4359 : Honor Guardsmen and Reservists Act.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make memorial headstones and markers available for purchase on behalf of members of reserve components who performed inactive duty training or active duty for training but did not serve on active duty.

Sponsor: Rep. Maloney, Sean Patrick [D-NY-18] (Introduced 04/01/2014)

Cosponsors: 0

Latest Action: 04/11/2014 Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

### **Veterans Health:**

**H.R.1134 : Vet Rural Health Care Improvement.** A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a grant program and pilot program designed to improve the delivery of health care to veterans residing in rural areas, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep Gallego, Pete P. [TX-23] (introduced 3/13/2013)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 3/13/2013 Referred to House committee.

Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. 4/2/13: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

H.R.1725 : **Veterans Mental Health Accessibility Act.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for unlimited eligibility for health care for mental illnesses for veterans of combat service during certain periods of hostilities and war.

Sponsor: Rep Cartwright, Matt [PA-17] (introduced 4/25/2013)

Cosponsors: 90

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 5/8/2013 Referred to House subcommittee.

Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

H.R.4248 : Veterans Education Outcomes Act. A bill to require institutions of higher education to disseminate information with respect to the completion rates, employment rates, and retention rates of recipients of GI Bill funding.

Sponsor: Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41] (Introduced 03/13/2014)

Cosponsors: 1

Latest Action: 03/13/2014 Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

H.R.4276 : Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Care Improvement Act of 2014. A bill to amend the Honoring the Families of Fallen Soldiers Act to provide a permanent appropriation of funds for the payment of death gratuities for survivors of deceased members of the uniformed services in event of any future period of lapsed appropriations.

Sponsor: Rep. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA-6] (Introduced 03/18/2014)

Cosponsors: 1

Latest Action: 03/24/2014 Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

S.2182 : Vet Mental Health Care Improvement. A bill to expand and improve care provided to veterans and members of the Armed Forces with mental health disorders or at risk of suicide, to review the terms or characterization of the discharge or separation of certain individuals from the Armed Forces, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen. Walsh, John E. [D-MT] (Introduced 03/27/2014)

Cosponsors: 7

Latest Action: 03/27/2014 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.2217 : Military Mental Health Review Board Improvement Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the participation of mental health professionals in boards for the correction of military records and boards for the review of the discharge or dismissal of members of the Armed Forces.

Sponsor: [Sen. Tester, Jon \[D-MT\]](#) (Introduced 04/07/2014)

Cosponsors: [3](#)

Latest Action: 04/07/2014 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

S.2243 : Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2014. A bill to expand eligibility for the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand benefits available to participants under such program, to enhance special compensation for members of the uniformed services who require assistance in everyday life, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA] (Introduced 04/10/2014)

Cosponsors: 0

Latest Action: 04/10/2014 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.  
(text of measure as introduced: CR S2383-2386)



## **POW/MIA:**

H.R.1520 : **POW/MIA Accounting and Recovery Support Act of 2013.** A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to allow civilian employees of the Department of Defense to delay furloughs until returning from a deployment in support of accounting and recovery efforts by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command.

Sponsor: Rep Lynch, Stephen F. [MA-8] (introduced 4/12/2013)

Cosponsors: 5

Committees: House Armed Services

Latest Major Action: 4/23/2013 Referred to House subcommittee.

Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Readiness.

## **Veteran Employment:**

HR 690 Reserve Retirement Deployment Credit Correction Act

Sponsor: Rep. Latham, Tom [R-IA-3] (Introduced 02/14/2013)

Cosponsors: 37

Latest Action: 03/14/2013 Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.1774 : **Wounded Veteran Job Security Act.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the reemployment of certain persons following absences from a position of employment for the purpose of obtaining medical treatment for certain injuries and illnesses, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep Doggett, Lloyd [TX-35] (introduced 4/26/2013) Cosponsors (21)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 5/8/2013 Referred to House subcommittee.

Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.

H.R.2056 : **Veteran Employment Transition Act.** A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the work opportunity credit to certain recently discharged veterans, to improve the coordination of veteran job training services between the Department of Labor, the Department of Veteran Affairs, and the Department of Defense, to require transparency for Executive departments in meeting the Government-wide goals for contracting with small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep Schwartz, Allyson Y. [PA-13] (introduced 5/20/2013)

Related Bills: S.140

Cosponsors: 74

Committees: House Ways and Means; House Veterans' Affairs; House Armed Services; House Small Business; House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 5/20/2013 Referred to House committee.

Status: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs, Armed Services, Small Business, and Education and the Workforce, 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. 7/8/2013 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

S.140 : **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, to improve the coordination of veteran job training services between the Department of Labor, the Department of

Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Defense, to require transparency for Executive departments in meeting the Government-wide goals for contracting with small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

Related Bills: H.R.2056

Sponsor: Sen Baucus, Max [MT] (introduced 1/24/2013)

Cosponsors: 3

Committees: Senate Finance

Latest Major Action: 1/24/2013 Referred to Senate committee.

Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

H.R.3648 : Hire A Hero Act of 2013. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the work opportunity credit to small businesses which hire individuals who are members of the Ready Reserve or National Guard, and for other purposes.)

Sponsor: Rep Braley, Bruce L. [IA-1] (introduced 12/4/2013) 3 Cosponsors. 12/4/13: referred to House Ways & Means

H.R.3649 : Jobs for Heroes Act. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the work opportunity credit for hiring individuals who are veterans or members of the Ready Reserve or National Guard, to make permanent the work opportunity credit, and to expand and make permanent the employer wage credit for employees who are active duty members of the uniformed services.

Sponsor: Rep Bustos, Cheri [IL-17] (introduced 12/4/2013)

Cosponsor: 8 12/4/13: referred to House Ways & Means

H.R.3653 : Jobs for Veterans Act of 2013. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an increased work opportunity credit with respect to recent veterans, and for other purposes. ponsor: Rep King, Peter T. [NY-2] (introduced 12/4/2013).

5 Cosponsors. 12/11/13: Referred to Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity

H.R.4247 : Disabled Veterans Jobs Opportunity Act. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that disabled veterans with a disability rating greater than or equal to 70 percent receive preference with respect to employment in the competitive service, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Ruiz, Raul [D-CA-36] (Introduced 03/13/2014)

Cosponsors: 5

Latest Action: 03/13/2014 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

H.R.4363 : Work for Warriors Act of 2014. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to establish a direct employment pilot program for members of the National Guard and Reserve, to be known as the "Work for Warriors Program", and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41] (Introduced 04/01/2014)

Cosponsors: 4

Latest Action: 04/01/2014 Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services.

H.R.4422 : Establish Veterans' Job Corps. A bill to authorize the President to establish the Veterans' Job Corps as a means of providing gainful employment to unemployed veterans and widows of veterans through the performance of useful public works, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Braley, Bruce L. [D-IA-1] (Introduced 04/08/2014)

Cosponsors: 0

Latest Action: 04/08/2014 Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

05/05/2014 Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.

S240 Reserve Retirement Deployment Credit Correction Act

Sponsor: Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT] (Introduced 02/07/2013)

Cosponsors: 15

Latest Action: 02/07/2013 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

S.1564 : Protecting Those Who Protected Us Act of 2013. A bill making continuing appropriations for veterans benefits and services in the event of a Government shutdown.  
Sponsor: Senator Sanders cosponsors: 7  
9/30/13: referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations

S.2138 : Veterans Hiring Act. A bill to provide a payroll tax holiday for newly hired veterans.  
Sponsor: Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH] (Introduced 03/13/2014)  
Cosponsors: 0  
Latest Action: 03/13/2014 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

S.2190 : Hire More Heroes Act of 2014. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of the employer mandate under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.  
Sponsor: Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO] (Introduced 04/01/2014)  
Cosponsors: 39  
Latest Action: 04/01/2014 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

### **Veteran Businesses:**

**H.R.1796 : Troop Talent Act of 2013.** A bill to ensure that the education and training provided members of the Armed Forces and veterans better assists members and veterans in obtaining civilian certifications and licenses, and for other purposes  
Sponsor: Rep Duckworth, Tammy [IL-8] (introduced 4/26/2013 cosponsors: 103  
Related Bills: S.700  
Committees: House Armed Services; House Veterans' Affairs  
Latest Major Action: 5/8/2013 Referred to House subcommittee.  
Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. 6/26/2013 House committee/subcommittee actions. Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

**H.R.2882 : Improving Opportunities for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses Act of 2013.** A bill to amend the Small Business Act and title 38, United States Code to provide for a consolidated definition of a small business concern owned and controlled by veterans, and for other purposes  
Sponsor: Rep Coffman, Mike [CO-6] (introduced 7/31/2013) cosponsors: 8  
Committees: House Veterans' Affairs; House Small Business  
Latest Major Action: 7/31/2013 Referred to House committee.  
Status: Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, 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.  
8/13/13: referred to House Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. 03/05/2014 Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.

**H.R.2906 : Fairness to Veterans for Infrastructure Investment Act of 2013.** A bill to amend MAP-21 to improve contracting opportunities for veteran-owned small business concerns, and for other purposes.  
Sponsor: Rep Fitzpatrick, Michael G. [PA-8] (introduced 8/1/2013) cosponsors: 9  
Committees: House Transportation and Infrastructure; House Small Business

Latest Major Action: 8/2/2013 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, 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. 8/02/2013 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.

**H.R.3098 : Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Relief Act.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance the treatment of certain small business concerns for purposes of Department of Veterans Affairs contracting goals and preferences.

Sponsor: Rep McNerney, Jerry [CA-9] (introduced 9/12/2013) Cosponsors: 6  
Related Bills: S.430

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 9/12/2013 Referred to House committee.

Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

### **H.R.3453**

**Latest Title:** Putting Our Veterans Back to Work Act of 2013

**Sponsor:** [Rep Horsford, Steven A.](#) [NV-4] (introduced 11/12/2013) [Cosponsors](#) (26)

**Related Bills:** [S.6](#)

**Latest Major Action:** 11/18/2013 Referred to House subcommittee.

Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity; 12/13/13: referred to Subcommittee on Research & Technology; 01/09/2014 Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice. 01/24/2014 Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

**H.R.3725 : Veterans Entrepreneurs Act of 2013.** A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow credits for the establishment of franchises with veterans.

Sponsor: Rep Flores, Bill [TX-17] (introduced 12/12/2013)

Cosponsors: 25

Committees: House Ways and Means

Latest Major Action: 12/12/2013 Referred to House committee.

Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

**H.R.4110 : Helping to Encourage Real Opportunity for Veterans Transitioning from Battlespace to Workplace Act of 2014.** A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit to encourage private employers to hire veterans, to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the reasonable efforts an employer may make under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act with respect to hiring veterans, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep Jackson Lee, Sheila [TX-18] (introduced 2/27/2014); cosponsors: 7

Committees: House Ways and Means; House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 3/7/2014 Referred to House subcommittee.

Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.

**S.6 : Putting Our Veterans Back to Work Act of 2013.** A bill to reauthorize the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011, to provide assistance to small businesses owned by veterans, to improve enforcement of employment and reemployment rights of members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen Reid, Harry [NV] (introduced 1/22/2013)

Cosponsors: 25

Committees: Senate Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/22/2013 Referred to Senate committee.

Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. 6/12/13: hearings held by Committee on Veterans Affairs.

7/24/2013 Senate committee/subcommittee actions.

Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.

### S.430

**Latest Title:** Veterans Small Business Opportunity and Protection Act of 2013

**Sponsor:** [Sen Heller, Dean](#) [NV] (introduced 2/28/2013) [Cosponsors](#) (3)

**Related Bills:** [H.R.3098](#), [S.495](#)

**Latest Major Action:** 6/12/2013 Senate committee/subcommittee actions.

Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held.

S.492 : **Vet State Licenses and Credentials.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require States to recognize the military experience of veterans when issuing licenses and credentials to veterans, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen Burr, Richard [NC] (introduced 3/7/2013) 1 Cosponsor Related bills: S.495

Committees: Senate Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 3/7/2013 Referred to Senate committee.

Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

6/12/13: Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs; hearings held

### S.495

**Latest Title:** Careers for Veterans Act of 2013

**Sponsor:** [Sen Burr, Richard](#) [NC] (introduced 3/7/2013) [Cosponsors](#) (6)

**Related Bills:** [S.430](#), [S.492](#)

**Latest Major Action:** 6/12/2013 Senate committee/subcommittee actions. Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held.

S.700 : **Troop Talent Act of 2013.** A bill to ensure that the education and training provided members of the Armed Forces and veterans better assists members and veterans in obtaining civilian certifications and licenses, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen Kaine, Tim [VA] (introduced 4/10/2013)

Cosponsors: 18

Related Bills: H.R.1796

Latest Major Action: 4/10/2013 Referred to Senate committee.

Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

S.2143 : Veterans Entrepreneurship Act. A bill to increase access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs to help create jobs.

Sponsor: Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH] (Introduced 03/13/2014)

Cosponsors: 0

Latest Action: 03/13/2014 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

### Military Sexual Assault:

S871 Combating Military Sexual Assault Act of 2013

Sponsor: Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA] (Introduced 05/07/2013)

Cosponsors: 38

Latest Action: 05/07/2013 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.  
(text of measure as introduced: CR S3162-3163)

HR 2002 Combating Military Sexual Assault Act of 2013

Sponsor: Rep. Ryan, Tim [D-OH-13] (Introduced 05/15/2013)

Cosponsors: 31

Latest Action: 06/20/2013 Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.4344 : Make Sexual Trauma a Presumptive Service Connected Condition. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a presumption of service connection for mental health conditions related to military sexual trauma.

Sponsor: Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1] (Introduced 03/27/2014)

Cosponsors: 13

Latest Action: 03/27/2014 Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.  
04/04/2014 Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

### **General:**

S.409 : **Vietnam Veterans Day Observance.** A bill to add Vietnam Veterans Day as a patriotic and national observance.

*Authorizes the President to annually issue a proclamation: (1) designating March 29 as Vietnam Veterans Day, (2) honoring and recognizing the contributions of veterans who served in Vietnam during war and peace, (3) encouraging state and local governments to establish a Vietnam Veterans Day, and (4) encouraging the people of the United States to observe such Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.*

Sponsor: Sen Burr, Richard [NC] (introduced 2/28/2013)

Cosponsors: 11

Committees: Senate Judiciary

Latest Major Action: 2/28/2013 Referred to Senate committee.

Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S 1728: Safeguarding Elections for our Nation's Troops through Reforms and Improvements (SENTRI) Act

Sponsor: Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX] (Introduced 11/19/2013)

Cosponsors: 14

Latest Action: 01/29/2014 Committee on Rules and Administration. Hearings held.  
04/10/2014 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 355.

S.1755 — Dignified Interment of Our Veterans Act of 2013. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on matters relating to the claiming and interring of unclaimed remains of veterans, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen. Toomey, Pat [R-PA] (Introduced 11/21/2013); cosponsors: 2

Latest Action: 11/21/2013 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.  
12/09/2013 Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 253.

S.2145 : Veteran Voting Support Act. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be designated as voter registration agencies, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA] (Introduced 03/13/2014)

Cosponsors: 3

Latest Action: 03/13/2014 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.2179 : Homeless Vet Active Duty Length of Service Waiver for Benefits. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to waive the minimum period of continuous active duty in the Armed Forces for receipt of benefits for homeless veterans, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish benefits for homeless veterans to homeless veterans with discharges or releases from service in the Armed Forces under other than honorable conditions, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA] (Introduced 03/27/2014)

Cosponsors: 0

Latest Action: 03/27/2014 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.3647 : Vet Guide Dog Improvement. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of guide dogs to veterans blinded by a service-connected injury. Sponsor: Rep Amodei, Mark E. [NV-2]; introduced 12/4/2013: referred to House Veterans Affairs

Sponsor: Rep. Amodei, Mark E. [R-NV-2] (Introduced 12/04/2013)

Cosponsors: 0

Latest Action: 12/04/2013 Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.  
5/5/14 Referred to Subcommittee on Health

H.R.3672 : S.O.S. Veterans Caregivers Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify that caregivers for veterans with serious illnesses are eligible for assistance and support services provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Ruiz, Raul [CA-36] (introduced 12/5/2013); 4 cosponsors; 12/16/13: referred to Subcommittee on Health

H.R.4356 : Department of Veterans Affairs Information Security Protection Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the information security of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Rep. Kirkpatrick, Ann \[D-AZ-1\]](#) (Introduced 04/01/2014)

Cosponsors: [1](#)

Latest Action: 04/04/2014 Referred to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

H.R.4370 : Veterans Information Security Improvement Act. A bill to improve the information security of the Department of Veterans Affairs by directing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain actions to improve the transparency and the governance of the information security program of the Department, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Rep. Walorski, Jackie \[R-IN-2\]](#) (Introduced 04/02/2014)

Cosponsors: 23

Latest Action: 04/04/2014 Referred to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

H.R.4446 : VA Study on Vet Unclaimed Remains. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on matters relating to the claiming and interring of unclaimed remains of veterans, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Shuster, Bill [R-PA-9] (Introduced 04/10/2014)

Cosponsors: 9

Latest Action: 04/10/2014 Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.  
05/05/2014 Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.