

S 2132

Department of Veterans Affairs Emergency Preparedness Act of 2002

Congress: 107 (2001–2003, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Apr 16, 2002

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 534.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 534. (Jul 31, 2002)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/107th-congress/senate-bill/2132>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Rockefeller, John D., IV [D-WV]

Party: Democratic • **State:** WV • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Jul 31, 2002

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
107 HR 3253	Related bill	Nov 7, 2002: Became Public Law No: 107-287.

Summary (as of Jul 31, 2002)

Department of Veterans Affairs Emergency Preparedness Act of 2002 - **Title I: Medical Emergency Preparedness** - Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and maintain within the Veterans Health Administration four centers for research and activities on medical emergency preparedness, including: (1) research on the detection, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of injuries, diseases, and illnesses arising from the use of chemical, biological, radiological, or incendiary or other explosive weapons or devices; and (2) related education and training. Requires: (1) each center to be established at an existing Department of Veterans Affairs medical center; and (2) the Secretary to select center sites from among competitive proposals, utilizing a peer review panel. Authorizes each center to provide assistance to Federal, State, and local agencies for investigations or inquiries intended to protect the public safety and health with regard to such weapons or devices. Authorizes appropriations for FY 2003 through 2007.

Title II: Department of Veterans Affairs Administration - Increases from six to seven the authorized number of Assistant Secretaries of Veterans Affairs. Provides as additional Assistant Secretary functions duties pertaining to operations, preparedness, security, and law enforcement.

(Sec. 202) Increases from 18 to 20 the authorized number of Deputy Assistant Secretaries of Veterans Affairs.

Title III: Health Care Matters - Authorizes the Secretary to furnish hospital care and medical services to: (1) individuals responding to, involved in, or otherwise affected by a disaster or medical emergency; and (2) veterans without regard to their enrollment in the Department's annual patient enrollment system. Authorizes the Secretary to give a higher priority to the furnishing of such care and services over all other care with the exception of care for: (1) veterans with service-connected disabilities; and (2) military personnel on active duty during a war or national emergency (as authorized herein). Requires the Secretary, within 60 days of providing any such care or services, to report to the congressional veterans' committees on allocated facilities and personnel. Exempts individuals receiving such care from required charges for emergency care. Empowers the Secretary to provide such care and services to military personnel on active duty responding to or involved in such disaster or emergency. Allows the Secretary to give a higher priority of such care to military personnel over all others except veterans with service-connected disabilities.

Title IV: Research Corporations - Allows funds received by the Secretary for research or education and training to be transferred to and administered by established research corporations. Considers employees of such research corporations to be Federal employees for purposes of Federal tort claims laws.

(Sec. 403) Makes permanent (currently expires December 31, 2003) the authority to establish nonprofit Department research and education corporations.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 31, 2002:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Reported by Senator Rockefeller with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title. With written report No. 107-229.
- **Jul 31, 2002:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Reported by Senator Rockefeller with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title. With written report No. 107-229.
- **Jul 31, 2002:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 534.
- **Jun 6, 2002:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Apr 16, 2002:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 16, 2002:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S2724)
- **Apr 16, 2002:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (text of measure as introduced: CR S2724-2725)