

HR 3447

Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001

Congress: 107 (2001–2003, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Dec 11, 2001

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 107-135.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 107-135. (Jan 23, 2002)

Law: 107-135 (Enacted Jan 23, 2002)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/107th-congress/house-bill/3447>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]

Party: Republican • State: NJ • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Evans, Lane [D-IL-17]	D · IL		Dec 11, 2001
Rep. Filner, Bob [D-CA-50]	D · CA		Dec 11, 2001
Rep. Moran, Jerry [R-KS-1]	R · KS		Dec 11, 2001

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred To	Dec 11, 2001

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
107 HR 3017	Related bill	Oct 31, 2001: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
107 HR 2792	Related bill	Oct 24, 2001: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
107 S 1188	Related bill	Oct 10, 2001: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 190.

Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001 - Revises various requirements relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs employee incentive scholarship program, including by reducing the period of employment required for eligibility and by increasing the years for which a scholarship may be paid.

Makes permanent the education debt reduction program.

Authorizes: (1) additional pay for Saturday duty for health care professionals in the Department's Veterans Health Administration (VHA); and (2) unused sick leave to be included in the annuity computation for VHA nurses.

Establishes the National Commission on VA Nursing.

Authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide service dogs to veterans enrolled in the veterans' patient enrollment system.

Provides the basis for maintenance of the Department's capacity to provide for the specialized treatment and rehabilitative needs of disabled veterans who: (1) are seriously mentally ill; or (2) have spinal cord dysfunction, traumatic brain injury, blindness, or prosthetics and sensory aids.

Directs the Secretary to provide chiropractic care and services to veterans enrolled in the veterans' patient enrollment system.

Authorizes the Secretary to carry out a major medical facility project at the Department's Medical Center in Miami, Florida.

Urges the Secretary to assess the Department's provision of special telephone services for veterans.

Directs the Secretary to provide consultation, counseling, training and mental health services to family members of a veteran receiving treatment for a service-connected disability and authorizes the Secretary to provide such services in connection with a veteran receiving treatment for a non-service-connected disability.

Authorizes: (1) bereavement counseling to family members of veterans who die in the line of duty or were participating in a hospice program; and (2) humanitarian hospital or medical care in emergency cases.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 23, 2002:** Signed by President.
- **Jan 23, 2002:** Signed by President.
- **Jan 23, 2002:** Became Public Law No: 107-135.
- **Jan 23, 2002:** Became Public Law No: 107-135.
- **Jan 11, 2002:** Presented to President.
- **Jan 11, 2002:** Presented to President.
- **Dec 21, 2001:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 20, 2001:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent.(consideration: CR S14075-14080)
- **Dec 20, 2001:** Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S14075-14080)
- **Dec 12, 2001:** Received in the Senate, read twice.
- **Dec 11, 2001:** Introduced in House
- **Dec 11, 2001:** Introduced in House
- **Dec 11, 2001:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
- **Dec 11, 2001:** Mr. Smith (NJ) moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Dec 11, 2001:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H9217-9225)
- **Dec 11, 2001:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 3447.
- **Dec 11, 2001:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H9217-9223)
- **Dec 11, 2001:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H9217-9223)
- **Dec 11, 2001:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.