

## HR 2411

Matthew Boisvert Help Extend Respect Owed to Every Soldier (HEROES) Act

**Congress:** 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Armed Forces and National Security

**Introduced:** May 17, 2005

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. (Jun 21, 2005)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/house-bill/2411>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Meehan, Martin T. [D-MA-5]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** MA • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors

*No cosponsors are listed for this bill.*

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 21, 2005
Financial Services Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 3, 2005
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 15, 2005
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 15, 2005

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Armed Forces and National Security

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

Matthew Voisbert Help Extend Respect Owed to Every Soldier (HEROES) Act - Requires: (1) the Secretary of Defense to establish minimum uniform standards for postdeployment medical examinations; (2) that such examinations include screening for mental health and substance abuse disorders; and (3) follow-up services in appropriate cases.

Directs the Secretary of Defense to foster the early identification and treatment of mental health and substance abuse disorders experienced by members of the Armed Forces, with special emphasis on members who have served in a theater of combat operations within the preceding 12 months.

Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to employ at least one psychiatrist and a complementary medical team at each Department of Veterans Affairs (Department) medical center to conduct a specialized program for the diagnosis and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, and to employ additional mental health services specialists at such center. Authorizes such Secretary to contract for mental health and substance abuse treatment services in non-Department facilities when such services are not available in Department facilities.

Requires the Secretary of Defense to transmit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs: (1) within seven days the medical records of all military personnel being discharged, released from active duty, or retired; and (2) a roster of all personnel who have served in the theater of operations during Operations Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom.

Directs the Secretary of Defense to assist eligible persons in obtaining employment in stable and permanent positions. Requires individualized transitional services to be provided to separating military personnel. Includes additional elements within a program under which the Secretary of Labor provides services and information to separating military personnel and their spouses.

Requires the Secretaries of Defense and Homeland Security to: (1) ensure that transition programs are provided at each military installation, National Guard armory and military family support center, and inpatient medical care facility; (2) ensure that military and veterans' service organizations and representatives are permitted to participate in such transition programs; and (3) facilitate the access of such State organizations and representatives to provide preseparation counseling and services to separating members.

Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to facilitate the access of such organizations and representatives to provide member information on the care and services available.

Requires the Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs to facilitate the sharing between their respective departments of information concerning member duties and assignments, exposures to toxic or hazardous substances, and illnesses or injuries incurred or aggravated in the course of such duties and assignments. Rescinds a Department Memorandum entitled "Status of VHA Enrollment and Associated Issues."

Directs the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to provide mortgage assistance to members who are seriously injured during military service.

Repeals the \$1,200 reduction in basic pay currently required for participation in the Montgomery GI Bill educational assistance program.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Jun 21, 2005:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.
- **Jun 15, 2005:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.
- **Jun 15, 2005:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Jun 3, 2005:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity.
- **May 17, 2005:** Introduced in House
- **May 17, 2005:** Introduced in House
- **May 17, 2005:** Referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs, and Financial Services, 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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