

## S 2984

Veterans' Benefits Enhancement Act of 2008

**Congress:** 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

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

**Introduced:** May 6, 2008

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (text of measure as introduced: CR S3

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (text of measure as introduced: CR S3798-3800) (May 6, 2008)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/senate-bill/2984>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Akaka, Daniel K. [D-HI]

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

### Cosponsors

*No cosponsors are listed for this bill.*

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 6, 2008

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Armed Forces and National Security

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

Veterans' Benefits Enhancement Act of 2008 - Revises or adds federal veterans' benefits provisions to, among other things: (1) reduce the waiting period for a veteran's affirmation of enrollment in a correspondence course; (2) eliminate the requirement that a veteran or beneficiary make a separate application for a program change at an educational institution; (3) eliminate a minimum wage-earning requirement in the case of self-employment on-job training; (4) authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to stay adjudication of a veteran's claim when necessary to preserve the integrity of a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)-administered program; (5) authorize memorial headstones or markers for deceased remarried surviving spouses of veterans; (6) make permanent the VA authority to fund contracted medical disability examinations; (7) expand Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage to certain members of the Individual Ready Reserve; (8) allow VA to provide temporary residence assistance grants to active-duty military personnel suffering from a disability incurred in or aggravated by such service; (9) make permanent the consideration of noninstitutional extended care services as covered medical services; (10) make permanent the authority to provide hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care to certain veterans who participated in Department of Defense (DOD) chemical and biological testing; (11) provide third-party payment authority with respect to care furnished to spina bifida-affected children of Vietnam veterans; (12) authorize disclosure of VA medical information to a representative of a patient who lacks decision-making capacity; (13) require VA patients to disclose health-plan information and their Social Security number; (14) expand the authority of VA police officers; and (15) increase from \$600,000 to \$1 million the threshold before a VA major medical facility lease must receive congressional approval.

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### **Actions Timeline**

- **May 6, 2008:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 6, 2008:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S3798)
- **May 6, 2008:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (text of measure as introduced: CR S3798-3800)