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Restore Honor to Service Members Act

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jan 16, 2014

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. (Jan 16, 2014)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/1956>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]

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

Cosponsors (28 total)

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Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Jan 30, 2014
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jan 30, 2014
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Jan 30, 2014
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Feb 10, 2014
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Feb 11, 2014
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Feb 11, 2014
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Feb 12, 2014
Sen. Heitkamp, Heidi [D-ND]	D · ND		Feb 24, 2014
Sen. Rockefeller, John D., IV [D-WV]	D · WV		Feb 25, 2014
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Feb 26, 2014
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Mar 13, 2014
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Mar 24, 2014
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		Apr 28, 2014

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 17, 2014

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 HR 2839	Related bill	Aug 29, 2013: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Restore Honor to Service Members Act - Requires appropriate military record correction boards or discharge review boards to review the discharge characterization of any former members of the Armed Forces requesting a review who were discharged because of their sexual orientation. Permits such boards to change a characterization to honorable if such characterization is any characterization except honorable.

Directs the Secretary of Defense (DOD) to ensure that any such changes are carried out consistently and uniformly across the military departments using specified criteria, including that: (1) the original discharge was based on the policy of Don't Ask Don't Tell (as in effect before it was repealed pursuant to the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010) or a similar earlier policy; and (2) the discharge characterization will be changed if, with respect to the original discharge, there were no aggravating circumstances, such as misconduct, that would have independently led to any discharge characterization except honorable.

Prohibits "aggravating circumstances" from including: (1) an offense of sodomy committed by the member against a consenting person of the same sex; or (2) statements, consensual sexual conduct, or consensual acts relating to sexual orientation or identity, or the disclosure of such statements, conduct, or acts, that were prohibited at the time of discharge but that became permitted after such discharge.

Directs the Secretary of each military department to ensure that oral historians of the department: (1) review discharges between World War II and September 2011 based on sexual orientation, and (2) receive oral testimony of individuals who personally experienced discrimination and discharge because of actual or perceived sexual orientation so that such testimony may serve as an official record of such discriminatory policies and their impact on American lives.

Requires the reissuance of specified military personnel records and discharge forms in a manner that shall not reflect the sexual orientation of the member.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 16, 2014:** Introduced in Senate
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