

S 1130

Legal Justice for Servicemembers Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Apr 29, 2015

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. (Apr 29, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1130>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]

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

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Apr 29, 2015
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Apr 29, 2015
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		May 20, 2015
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jun 1, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	Senate	Referred To	Apr 29, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 2190	Identical bill	Aug 13, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Legal Justice for Servicemembers Act of 2015

This bill revises whistle blower protections for members of the Armed Forces.

Prohibited personnel actions shall include:

- a superior's failure to respond to retaliatory action or harassment taken against a subordinate; and
- action that could be understood as an attempt to dissuade a service member from making or preparing a communication, or participating in any other activity.

A service member may opt out of a military branch investigation in favor of an investigation by the Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General (DODIG).

An investigating Inspector General (IG) may impose a 90-day stay of a personnel action, which may be extended by the military department concerned to complete an investigation, in order to prevent undue hardship to a service member if reasonable grounds exist to believe that a prohibited personnel action has occurred.

Periodic notice must be given to service members on the progress of IG investigations.

IG recommendations for disposition of complaints must include recommendations for disciplinary actions against the person who committed the prohibited personnel action, against a superior who knew or should have known but failed to address the action, or both.

An investigating IG shall submit a substantiated investigation to the appropriate military corrections board unless the service member requests otherwise.

Service members may request a corrections board hearing under specified circumstances.

DODIG shall prescribe uniform standards for: (1) investigation of allegations of prohibited personnel actions, and (2) staff training.

The investigative evidentiary burden of proof shall be "clear and convincing evidence."

Provisions are revised for improvements to authorities and procedures for correction of military records, including permitting a claimant to seek judicial review of a board's determination in an appropriate U.S. court.

The Inspector General Act of 1978 is amended to include the Inspectors General of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps, the National Guard Bureau, and the Coast Guard in the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 29, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
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