

## HR 1607

Ruth Moore Act of 2015

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

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

**Introduced:** Mar 25, 2015

**Current Status:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

**Latest Action:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (Jul 28, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1607>

### Sponsor

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**Name:** Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]

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

Cosponsors (31 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. DeLauro, Rosa L. [D-CT-3]	D · CT		Mar 25, 2015
Rep. Dold, Robert J. [R-IL-10]	R · IL		Mar 25, 2015
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3]	D · AZ		Mar 25, 2015
Rep. Guinta, Frank C. [R-NH-1]	R · NH		Mar 25, 2015
Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]	D · NH		Mar 25, 2015
Rep. Lewis, John [D-GA-5]	D · GA		Mar 25, 2015
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Mar 25, 2015
Rep. Poliquin, Bruce [R-ME-2]	R · ME		Mar 25, 2015
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]	D · IL		Mar 25, 2015
Rep. Tsongas, Niki [D-MA-3]	D · MA		Mar 25, 2015
Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11]	D · CA		Apr 14, 2015
Rep. Honda, Michael M. [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Apr 14, 2015
Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]	D · CA		Apr 21, 2015
Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]	D · OR		Apr 21, 2015
Rep. Ellison, Keith [D-MN-5]	D · MN		Apr 21, 2015
Rep. Jones, Walter B., Jr. [R-NC-3]	R · NC		Apr 21, 2015
Rep. McCollum, Betty [D-MN-4]	D · MN		Apr 21, 2015
Rep. Rice, Kathleen M. [D-NY-4]	D · NY		Apr 21, 2015
Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [D-NY-25]	D · NY		Apr 21, 2015
Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41]	D · CA		Apr 21, 2015
Rep. DelBene, Suzan K. [D-WA-1]	D · WA		Apr 23, 2015
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]	D · CA		Apr 23, 2015
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Apr 23, 2015
Rep. Sires, Albio [D-NJ-8]	D · NJ		Apr 23, 2015
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Apr 29, 2015
Rep. Esty, Elizabeth H. [D-CT-5]	D · CT		Apr 29, 2015
Rep. McDermott, Jim [D-WA-7]	D · WA		Apr 29, 2015
Rep. Polis, Jared [D-CO-2]	D · CO		Apr 29, 2015
Rep. Kilmer, Derek [D-WA-6]	D · WA		Jun 16, 2015
Rep. Larsen, Rick [D-WA-2]	D · WA		Jul 14, 2015
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]	D · CA		Jul 14, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 7, 2015
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Reported by	May 14, 2015
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 28, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 6062	Related bill	<b>Oct 19, 2016:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.
114 S 865	Identical bill	<b>Mar 25, 2015:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

(This measure has not been amended since it was reported to the House on July 16, 2015. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

### **Ruth Moore Act of 2015**

(Sec. 2) This bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to report to Congress, by December 1, 2015 and each year thereafter through 2019, on claims submitted during the previous fiscal year for disability compensation based on a covered mental health condition alleged to have been incurred or aggravated by military sexual trauma (covered claims).

Each report shall include:

- the number of covered claims submitted or considered;
- the number and percentage of such claims submitted by each sex, and the number of claims approved or denied;
- the number and percentage, listed by each sex, of approved covered claims assigned to each rating percentage;
- the three most common reasons for denial of covered claims, and the number of denials based on the veteran's failure to report for a medical examination;
- the number of covered claims pending and the number on appeal;
- the average number of days that covered claims take to complete; and
- a description of related training provided to Veterans Benefits Administration employees.

The VA shall submit to Congress an initial report within 90 days after enactment of this Act, and annual reports beginning in December 2015.

It is the sense of Congress that the VA should update regulations regarding military sexual trauma by:

- ensuring that military sexual trauma is specified as an in-service stressor in determining the service-connection of post-traumatic stress disorder, and
- recognizing the full range of physical and mental disabilities (including depression, anxiety, and other disabilities as indicated in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric Association) that can result from military sexual trauma.

For the period starting fifteen months after enactment of this Act and lasting until VA publishes updated regulations, the VA shall provide:

- a copy of the congressional report to each veteran who has submitted a covered claim or been treated for military sexual trauma at a VA medical facility; and
- monthly to each such veteran information that includes the date that the VA plans to complete such updated regulations, the number of granted or denied covered claims, a comparison to the rate of grants and denials with the rate for other claims regarding post-traumatic stress disorder, the three most common reasons for claim denials, and the average time for processing covered claims at each regional office.

The VA shall report to Congress monthly regarding: (1) all adjudicated covered claims and their outcomes, and (2) the reason for denial of any covered claim.

(Sec. 3) The Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 is amended to limit to \$2 million during each of FY2016-FY2018 the aggregate amount of awards and bonuses paid to VA employees who are members of the Senior

## Actions Timeline

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- **Jul 28, 2015:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
- **Jul 27, 2015:** Mr. Miller (FL) moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Jul 27, 2015:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5517-5519)
- **Jul 27, 2015:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 1607.
- **Jul 27, 2015:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H5517-5518)
- **Jul 27, 2015:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H5517-5518)
- **Jul 27, 2015:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jul 16, 2015:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H. Rept. 114-207.
- **Jul 16, 2015:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 156.
- **May 21, 2015:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **May 21, 2015:** Ordered to be Reported in the Nature of a Substitute (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **May 14, 2015:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **May 14, 2015:** Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee in the Nature of a Substitute (Amended) by Voice Vote .
- **Apr 14, 2015:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **Apr 8, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.
- **Apr 7, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Mar 25, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 25, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.