

S 3021

VEI Act of 2016

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jun 6, 2016

Current Status: Held at the desk.

Latest Action: Held at the desk. (Dec 12, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/3021>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Inhofe, James M. [R-OK]

Party: Republican • **State:** OK • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Lankford, James [R-OK]	R · OK		Jun 6, 2016
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Sep 29, 2016
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		Nov 30, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Discharged From	Dec 10, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 5604	Related bill	Jul 5, 2016: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.

Veterans Education Improvement Act of 2016 or the VEI Act of 2016

This bill permits veterans to use Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Post-9/11 educational assistance for an accredited independent study program offered by an educational institution that is not an institution of higher learning, such as an area career and technical education school or a postsecondary vocational institution providing postsecondary level education.

The VA may prioritize vocational rehabilitation services based on need and upon consideration of disability ratings, the severity of employment handicaps, qualification for a program of independent living, income, and other appropriate factors.

Individuals may elect to convert their educational assistance to the Post-9/11 veterans' educational assistance program if, as of August 1, 2009, they meet specified conditions with respect to their entitlements and elections under the all-volunteer force educational assistance program or certain other educational programs for professional military, selected reserve, or reserve component members.

The bill prescribes transitional rules with respect to the transfer or revocation of entitlements from a previous assistance program after an election to convert to the Post-9/11 program.

Certain assistance shall remain available to individuals under their previous program if it is not available under the Post-9/11 program.

After January 1, 2016, if an individual submits an election that the VA determines is against the individual's interests, the VA may make an alternative election on the individual's behalf. Such an individual may, during a specified period, modify or revoke the VA's alternative selection.

The bill extends the period for certain qualifying work-study activities for individuals receiving VA educational assistance.

Specified education programs are deemed to be approved for veterans' education benefit purposes if a state approving agency determines that they qualify.

Licensure or certification program requirements necessary for VA approval are revised.

The Director of a Veterans Integrated Service Network may contract with an entity specializing in civilian accreditation or health care evaluation to investigate any network medical center.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 12, 2016:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 12, 2016:** Received in the House.
- **Dec 12, 2016:** Held at the desk.
- **Dec 10, 2016:** Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs discharged by Unanimous Consent.
- **Dec 10, 2016:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S7145)
- **Dec 10, 2016:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **Dec 10, 2016:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **Jun 29, 2016:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-707.
- **Jun 6, 2016:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 6, 2016:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.