

HR 3216

VET Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jul 27, 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. (Sep 27, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/3216>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Newhouse, Dan [R-WA-4]

Party: Republican • **State:** WA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (13 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. Bordallo, Madeleine Z. [D-GU-At Large]	D · GU		Jul 27, 2015
Rep. Boustany, Charles W., Jr. [R-LA-3]	R · LA		Jul 27, 2015
Rep. Latta, Robert E. [R-OH-5]	R · OH		Jul 27, 2015
Rep. Goodlatte, Bob [R-VA-6]	R · VA		Jul 29, 2015
Rep. Hensarling, Jeb [R-TX-5]	R · TX		Sep 10, 2015
Del. Radewagen, Aumua Amata Coleman [R-AS-At Large]	R · AS		Oct 23, 2015
Rep. Jones, Walter B., Jr. [R-NC-3]	R · NC		Oct 23, 2015
Rep. McMorris Rodgers, Cathy [R-WA-5]	R · WA		Oct 23, 2015
Rep. Pearce, Stevan [R-NM-2]	R · NM		Oct 23, 2015
Rep. Kilmer, Derek [D-WA-6]	D · WA		Oct 28, 2015
Rep. Olson, Pete [R-TX-22]	R · TX		Oct 28, 2015
Rep. Burgess, Michael C. [R-TX-26]	R · TX		Dec 17, 2015
Rep. McClintock, Tom [R-CA-4]	R · CA		Sep 8, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Aug 6, 2015
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Sep 27, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Sep 26, 2016)

(This measure has not been amended since it was introduced. The summary has been expanded because action occurred on the measure.)

Veterans Emergency Treatment Act or the VET Act

(Sec. 1) This bill declares that, if a veteran who is enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care program requests a medical examination or treatment at an emergency department of a VA medical facility, the veteran shall be provided with:

- a medical screening examination to determine whether an emergency medical condition exists; and
- if an emergency condition exists, stabilizing medical treatment or transfer to another VA or non-VA medical facility.

The VA is deemed to have met such requirements if it offers to transfer the veteran to another medical facility, informs the veteran of the transfer's risks and benefits, and the veteran refuses to consent to the transfer.

If a non-stabilized emergency medical condition exists the VA hospital may not transfer the veteran unless:

- the veteran (or individual), after being made aware of the risks, makes a written transfer request;
- a physician certifies that the medical benefits of a transfer outweigh the risks to the veteran and, in the case of a woman in labor, to the unborn child;
- if a physician is not present in the emergency department at the time of transfer, a qualified medical person has made such certification after a physician has determined that a transfer's benefit outweighs the risk and a physician subsequently countersigns the qualified medical person's certification; and
- the transfer is to a medical facility with the necessary treatment capacities.

A VA or non-VA medical facility that has specialized capabilities or facilities (such as burn units, shock-trauma units, neonatal intensive care units, or, with respect to rural areas, regional referral centers) shall not refuse to accept a transfer if the facility has the capacity to treat the veteran.

A VA or non-VA medical facility may not delay a medical screening examination or further medical examination and treatment in order to inquire about a veteran's payment method or insurance status.

The VA may not take adverse action against a VA employee because the employee refuses to authorize the transfer of an enrolled veteran with a non-stabilized emergency medical condition or because the employee reports a violation of this bill.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 27, 2016:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
- **Sep 26, 2016:** Mr. Miller (FL) moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Sep 26, 2016:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5891-5892)
- **Sep 26, 2016:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 3216.
- **Sep 26, 2016:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H5891-5892)
- **Sep 26, 2016:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H5891-5892)
- **Sep 26, 2016:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Sep 21, 2016:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Sep 21, 2016:** Ordered to be Reported by Voice Vote.
- **Aug 6, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Jul 27, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 27, 2015:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E1131)
- **Jul 27, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.