

HR 3236

Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)  
**Chamber:** House  
**Policy Area:** Transportation and Public Works  
**Introduced:** Jul 28, 2015  
**Current Status:** Became Public Law No: 114-41.  
**Latest Action:** Became Public Law No: 114-41. (Jul 31, 2015)  
**Law:** 114-41 (Enacted Jul 31, 2015)  
**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/3236>

Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Shuster, Bill [R-PA-9]  
**Party:** Republican • **State:** PA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Miller, Jeff [R-FL-1]	R · FL		Jul 28, 2015
Rep. Ryan, Paul D. [R-WI-1]	R · WI		Jul 28, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Budget Committee	House	Referred To	Jul 28, 2015
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred To	Jul 28, 2015
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred To	Jul 28, 2015
Homeland Security Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 29, 2015
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred To	Jul 28, 2015
Science, Space, and Technology Committee	House	Referred To	Jul 28, 2015
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred To	Jul 28, 2015
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred To	Jul 28, 2015
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 29, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Transportation and Public Works

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 22	Related bill	<b>Dec 4, 2015:</b> Became Public Law No: 114-94.
114 HJRES 61	Related bill	<b>Sep 24, 2015:</b> Motion by Senator McConnell to commit to Senate Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report back forthwith with the following amendment (SA 2685) made in Senate. (consideration: CR S6916; text: CR S6916)
114 HR 3246	Related bill	<b>Aug 5, 2015:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
114 HRES 388	Related bill	<b>Jul 29, 2015:</b> Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
114 S 1880	Related bill	<b>Jul 28, 2015:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
114 HR 3038	Related bill	<b>Jul 21, 2015:</b> Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 157.
114 HR 2514	Related bill	<b>May 21, 2015:</b> Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.
114 HR 1665	Related bill	<b>Mar 26, 2015:</b> Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.
114 HR 898	Related bill	<b>Feb 11, 2015:</b> Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.
114 S 344	Related bill	<b>Feb 3, 2015:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
114 S 12	Related bill	<b>Jan 6, 2015:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

(This measure has not been amended since it was introduced. The expanded summary of the House passed version is repeated here.)

## **Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015**

Directs the Secretary of Transportation to reduce the amount apportioned for a surface transportation program, project, or activity for FY2015 by amounts apportioned or allocated under the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 and the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2015 for the period from October 1, 2014, through July 31, 2015.

### **TITLE I--SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM EXTENSION**

#### **Subtitle A--Federal-Aid Highways**

(Sec. 1001) Amends the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 to continue from October 1, 2014, through October 29, 2015, and authorizes appropriations through that period for, specified federal-aid highway programs under:

- the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21),
- the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) Technical Corrections Act of 2008,
- SAFETEA-LU,
- the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21),
- the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995,
- the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA), and
- other specified law.

Subjects funding for FY2015, and for the period October 1, 2015, through October 29, 2015, for such programs to certain funding level restrictions.

Amends MAP-21 to authorize appropriations out of the general fund of the Treasury for the Tribal High Priority Projects program for the same period.

Prescribes an obligation ceiling of \$40.256 billion for FY2015, including \$3,189,683,060 for the period October 1, 2015, through October 29, 2015, for federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs.

(Sec. 1002) Authorizes appropriations from the HTF (other than the Mass Transit Account) for administrative expenses of the federal-aid highway program for the same period.

#### **Subtitle B--Extension of Highway Safety Programs**

(Sec. 1101) Extends for the same period the authorization of appropriations for National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) safety programs, including:

- highway safety research and development,
- national priority safety programs,
- the National Driver Register,
- the High Visibility Enforcement Program, and

NHTSA administrative expenses.

Amends SAFETEA-LU to extend for the same period high-visibility traffic safety law enforcement campaigns under the High Visibility Enforcement Program.

Sets aside a specified amount of the total apportionment to states for highway safety programs for a cooperative program to research and evaluate priority highway safety countermeasures for the same period.

(Sec. 1102) Extends for the same period the authorization of appropriations for Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) programs, including:

- motor carrier safety grants,
- FMCSA administrative expenses,
- commercial driver's license program improvement grants,
- border enforcement grants,
- performance and registration information system management grants,
- commercial vehicle information systems and networks deployment grants,
- safety data improvement grants,
- a set-aside for high priority activities that improve commercial motor vehicle safety and compliance with commercial motor vehicle safety regulations,
- a set-aside for new entrant motor carrier audit grants,
- FMCSA outreach and education, and
- the commercial motor vehicle operators grant program.

(Sec. 1103) Amends the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act to continue, for the same period, the authorized distribution of funds for coastal wetlands, recreational boating safety, projects under the Clean Vessel Act of 19921, boating infrastructure projects, and the National Outreach and Communications Program.

#### Subtitle C--Public Transportation Programs

(Sec. 1201) Extends for the same period the apportionment of nonurbanized (rural) area formula grants for competitive grants and formula grants for public transportation on Indian reservations.

(Sec. 1202) Extends the apportionment of urbanized area formula grants for passenger ferry projects for the same period.

(Sec. 1203) Extends for the same period the authorization of appropriations from the HTF Mass Transit Account for:

- formula grants for public transportation, including allocations for specified projects;
- research, development demonstration, and deployment projects;
- the transit cooperative research program;
- technical assistance and standards development grants;
- human resources and training grants;
- capital investment grants; and
- administrative expenses.

(Sec. 1204) Allocates, for the same period, certain amounts to states and territories for formula bus and bus facilities grants.

## Subtitle D--Hazardous Materials

(Sec. 1301) Authorizes appropriations for the same period for hazardous materials (hazmat) transportation safety projects.

Authorizes the Secretary to make certain expenditures, including an amount for hazmat training grants, from the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Fund for the same period.

## TITLE II--REVENUE PROVISIONS

(Sec. 2001) Amends the Internal Revenue Code to extend through October 30, 2015, the authority for expenditures from: (1) the Highway and Mass Transit Accounts of the Highway Trust Fund, (2) the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, and (3) the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund.

(Sec. 2002) Appropriates additional funds to the Highway and Mass Transit Accounts of the Highway Trust Fund.

(Sec. 2003) Requires tax information returns reporting mortgage interest received in a trade or business to include: (1) the outstanding principal on the mortgage, (2) the date of the origination of the mortgage, and (3) the address of the property which secures the mortgage.

(Sec. 2004) Requires that: (1) the value of the basis in any property acquired from a decedent be consistent with the basis as determined for estate tax purposes; and (2) executors of estates disclose to the Internal Revenue Service and to persons acquiring any interest in the decedent's estate information identifying the value of each interest received.

(Sec. 2005) Makes the six-year limitation on assessments of additional tax applicable to understatements of gross income due to an overstatement of unrecovered costs or other basis.

(Sec. 2006) Changes tax return due dates for partnerships, S corporations, and C corporations. Extends the automatic extension for corporate income tax returns from three to six months.

(Sec. 2007) Extends through 2025 the authority for transfers of excess pension assets of a defined benefit plan to a retiree health benefits account.

(Sec. 2008) Equalizes excise tax rates for liquefied petroleum gas, liquefied natural gas, and compressed natural gas.

## TITLE III--ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

Revises aviation security service passenger fee requirements.

Requires the deposit into the Treasury as offsetting receipts the following sums collected to pay the costs of providing civil aviation security services to airline passengers:

- \$1.560 billion for FY2024, and
- \$1.6 billion for FY2025.

## TITLE IV--VETERANS PROVISIONS

### *VA Budget and Choice Improvement Act*

(Sec. 4002) Directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to develop a plan to consolidate all non-VA provider

programs into a new, single Veterans Choice Program to furnish hospital care and medical services at non-VA facilities for veterans in the patient enrollment system.

(Sec. 4003) Requires the presidential budget for FY2017 and every ensuing fiscal year to include an appropriations account for non-VA provider programs.

(Sec. 4004) Grants the VA temporary authority, until the end of FY2015, to use certain transfers from the Veterans Choice Fund to pay for health care for eligible veterans at non-VA facilities, including pharmaceuticals for treatment of Hepatitis C.

(Sec. 4005) Modifies requirements of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to:

- repeal the 60-day limit on follow-up care;
- repeal the August 1, 2012, enrollment limitation on the eligibility of veterans in the patient enrollment system;
- extend provider eligibility to any health care provider meeting VA criteria; and
- base the 40-mile distance requirement as on distance traveled from a VA medical facility, including one offering primary care for a veteran seeking primary care.

(Sec. 4006) Prohibits the use of funds by the VA to expand the dialysis pilot program, or to create any new dialysis capability provided by the VA in a facility that is not an initial facility under the dialysis pilot program, until an independent analysis of the dialysis pilot program is conducted for each such initial facility and 180 days have elapsed since the VA reports on the results.

(Sec. 4007) Amends the Internal Revenue Code to:

- exclude individuals covered for medical care under TRICARE or the VA from the determination of whether an employer is an applicable large employer with respect to employee enrollment in minimum essential health care coverage under an eligible employer-sponsored plan,
- treat a veteran receiving hospital care or medical services for a service-connected disability as not disqualified from participating in or contributing to a tax-preferred health savings account.

(Sec. 4008) Designates this title, except for section 4007, an emergency requirement, thereby exempting it from the pay-as-you-go requirement of budget neutrality.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Jul 31, 2015:** Presented to President.
- **Jul 31, 2015:** Signed by President.
- **Jul 31, 2015:** Became Public Law No: 114-41.
- **Jul 30, 2015:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Received in the Senate, read twice, considered, read the third time, and passed (under the order of 7/29/15, having achieved 60 votes in the affirmative) without amendment by Yea-Nay Vote. 91 - 4. Record Vote Number: 261.(consideration CR S6165-6166)
- **Jul 30, 2015:** Received in the Senate, read twice, considered, read the third time, and passed (under the order of 7/29/15, having achieved 60 votes in the affirmative) without amendment by Yea-Nay Vote. 91 - 4. Record Vote Number: 261. (consideration CR S6165-6166)
- **Jul 30, 2015:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Jul 29, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Transportation Security.
- **Jul 29, 2015:** Rule H. Res. 388 passed House.
- **Jul 29, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Jul 29, 2015:** Considered under the provisions of rule H. Res. 388. (consideration: CR H5640-5650)
- **Jul 29, 2015:** Previous question shall be considered as ordered without intervening motions except motion to recommit with or without instructions. All points of order against consideration of the bills are waived. For H.R. 1994, The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. No amendment will be in order except those printed in the report accompanying the resolution .
- **Jul 29, 2015:** QUESTION OF CONSIDERATION - The Chair announced that the bill contained an emergency designation pursuant to section 4(g)(1) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 and accordingly, the Chair would put the question of consideration under section 4(g)(2) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010. By voice vote, the Chair announced that the question of consideration had been decided in the affirmative.
- **Jul 29, 2015:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with one hour of debate on H.R. 3236.
- **Jul 29, 2015:** The previous question was ordered pursuant to the rule. (consideration: CR H5650)
- **Jul 29, 2015:** Passed/agreed to in House: On passage Passed by the Yeas and Nays: 385 - 34, 1 Present (Roll no. 486).(text: CR H5640-5647)
- **Jul 29, 2015:** On passage Passed by the Yeas and Nays: 385 - 34, 1 Present (Roll no. 486). (text: CR H5640-5647)
- **Jul 29, 2015:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jul 28, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 28, 2015:** Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, Science, Space, and Technology, Natural Resources, Veterans' Affairs, Education and the Workforce, the Budget, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
- **Jul 28, 2015:** Rules Committee Resolution H. Res. 388 Reported to House. Previous question shall be considered as ordered without intervening motions except motion to recommit with or without instructions. All points of order against consideration of the bills are waived. For H.R. 1994, The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. No amendment will be in order except those printed in the report accompanying the resolution .