

## HR 366

### Putting Our Veterans Back to Work Act of 2015

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

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

**Introduced:** Jan 14, 2015

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. (Aug 13, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/366>

## Sponsor

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**Name:** Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]

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

**Cosponsors** (35 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. Bordallo, Madeleine Z. [D-GU-At Large]	D · GU		Jan 14, 2015
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Jan 14, 2015
Rep. Bass, Karen [D-CA-37]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2015
Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1]	D · RI		Jan 14, 2015
Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. [D-GA-4]	D · GA		Jan 14, 2015
Rep. Kelly, Robin L. [D-IL-2]	D · IL		Jan 14, 2015
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2015
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Jan 14, 2015
Rep. Meeks, Gregory W. [D-NY-5]	D · NY		Jan 14, 2015
Rep. Rangel, Charles B. [D-NY-13]	D · NY		Jan 14, 2015
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]	D · IL		Jan 14, 2015
Rep. Serrano, Jose E. [D-NY-15]	D · NY		Jan 14, 2015
Rep. Tsongas, Niki [D-MA-3]	D · MA		Jan 14, 2015
Rep. Ashford, Brad [D-NE-2]	D · NE		Jan 22, 2015
Rep. DelBene, Suzan K. [D-WA-1]	D · WA		Jan 22, 2015
Rep. Fattah, Chaka [D-PA-2]	D · PA		Jan 22, 2015
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]	D · FL		Jan 22, 2015
Rep. Higgins, Brian [D-NY-26]	D · NY		Jan 22, 2015
Rep. Lowey, Nita M. [D-NY-17]	D · NY		Jan 22, 2015
Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [D-NY-25]	D · NY		Jan 22, 2015
Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]	D · VT		Jan 22, 2015
Rep. Engel, Eliot L. [D-NY-16]	D · NY		Feb 5, 2015
Rep. Honda, Michael M. [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Feb 5, 2015
Rep. Jones, Walter B., Jr. [R-NC-3]	R · NC		Feb 5, 2015
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Feb 5, 2015
Rep. Waters, Maxine [D-CA-43]	D · CA		Feb 5, 2015
Rep. Cartwright, Matt [D-PA-17]	D · PA		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Gabbard, Tulsi [D-HI-2]	D · HI		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Norcross, Donald [D-NJ-1]	D · NJ		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Payne, Donald M., Jr. [D-NJ-10]	D · NJ		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Deutch, Theodore E. [D-FL-21]	D · FL		Mar 19, 2015
Rep. Langevin, James R. [D-RI-2]	D · RI		Apr 16, 2015
Rep. Thompson, Mike [D-CA-5]	D · CA		Apr 16, 2015
Rep. Wilson, Frederica S. [D-FL-24]	D · FL		Apr 16, 2015
Rep. Lynch, Stephen F. [D-MA-8]	D · MA		Jul 28, 2015

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	House	Referred to	Aug 13, 2015
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 5, 2015
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Referred To	Jan 14, 2015
Science, Space, and Technology Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 19, 2015
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 6, 2015

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

## Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

## **Putting Our Veterans Back to Work Act of 2015**

Amends the: (1) VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 to extend through 2018 the veterans retraining assistance program, and (2) Wounded Warrior Act to extend through 2018 the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) (Secretary) to provide the same rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of the Armed Forces with severe injuries or illnesses as are provided to veterans.

Extends through: (1) March 31, 2018, additional VA rehabilitation programs for certain disabled veterans who have completed a VA rehabilitation program and have exhausted their rights to state unemployment benefits; and (2) FY2019 the collaborative veterans' training, mentoring, and placement program.

Directs the Secretary to develop a single, unified federal web-based employment portal for veterans to access information on federal programs and activities concerning veterans employment, unemployment benefits, and training.

Directs the: (1) Secretary of Homeland Security to award grants to hire veterans as firefighters, and (2) Attorney General (AG) to award grants to hire veterans as law enforcement officers.

Requires the head of each executive and defense agency to consider favorably, as an evaluation factor in federal solicitations for contracts and task or delivery orders valued at or above \$25 million, the employment by a prospective contractor of veterans constituting at least 5% of the contractor's workforce.

Allows a veteran on whose behalf a complaint of a violation of employment or reemployment rights under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) is made by the AG to intervene in such action, and to obtain appropriate relief. Requires the AG, within 60 days after receiving a referral of an unsuccessful attempt to resolve a complaint relating to a state or private employer, to notify the person on whose behalf the complaint is submitted of either the decision to commence such an action or of when such decision is expected to be made. Requires, in the latter case, such decision to be made within an additional 30 days. Requires the AG to commence such an action when there is reasonable cause to believe that a state or private employer is engaged in a pattern or practice of resistance to the full enjoyment of such rights and benefits, and that the pattern or practice denies the full exercise of such rights and benefits.

Authorizes the suspension, termination, or debarment of federal contractors for repeated failures or refusals to comply with USERRA protections.

Provides the Special Counsel with subpoena power to require the attendance and testimony of, and production of documents from, federal employees, to be enforced through the Merit Systems Protection Board.

Authorizes the AG, in employment or reemployment rights investigations, to issue and serve a civil investigative demand for the production of documentary material.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Aug 13, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.
- **Feb 19, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Research and Technology.
- **Feb 6, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.
- **Feb 5, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.
- **Jan 14, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 14, 2015:** Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Oversight and Government Reform, the Judiciary, and Science, Space, and Technology, 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.