

HR 5695

Veterans Visa and Protection Act of 2016

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Jul 8, 2016

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. (Aug 11, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/5695>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3]

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

Cosponsors (22 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Cárdenas, Tony [D-CA-29]	D · CA		Jul 8, 2016
Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]	D · CA		Jul 8, 2016
Rep. Conyers, John, Jr. [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Jul 8, 2016
Rep. Gallego, Ruben [D-AZ-7]	D · AZ		Jul 8, 2016
Rep. Green, Gene [D-TX-29]	D · TX		Jul 8, 2016
Rep. Gutierrez, Luis V. [D-IL-4]	D · IL		Jul 8, 2016
Rep. Hinojosa, Ruben [D-TX-15]	D · TX		Jul 8, 2016
Rep. Honda, Michael M. [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Jul 8, 2016
Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. [D-GA-4]	D · GA		Jul 8, 2016
Rep. Lieu, Ted [D-CA-33]	D · CA		Jul 8, 2016
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Jul 8, 2016
Rep. Moulton, Seth [D-MA-6]	D · MA		Jul 8, 2016
Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32]	D · CA		Jul 8, 2016
Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41]	D · CA		Jul 8, 2016
Rep. Vargas, Juan [D-CA-51]	D · CA		Jul 8, 2016
Rep. Vela, Filemon [D-TX-34]	D · TX		Jul 8, 2016
Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12]	D · NJ		Jul 8, 2016
Rep. Veasey, Marc A. [D-TX-33]	D · TX		Jul 12, 2016
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Sep 26, 2016
Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1]	D · RI		Nov 15, 2016
Rep. Green, Al [D-TX-9]	D · TX		Dec 8, 2016
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Dec 8, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	House	Referred to	Aug 11, 2016
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 22, 2016
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 14, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 6062	Related bill	Oct 19, 2016: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Summary (as of Jul 8, 2016)

Veterans Visa and Protection Act of 2016

This bill requires the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to: (1) establish a program to permit eligible deported noncitizen veterans to enter the United States as, and to permit eligible noncitizen veterans in the United States to adjust their status to that of, a noncitizen lawfully admitted for permanent residence; and (2) cancel the removal of eligible noncitizen veterans and allow them to similarly adjust their status.

An "eligible" veteran is a veteran who: (1) was not ordered removed, or removed, from the United States due to a criminal conviction for a crime of violence or for a crime that endangers U.S. national security for which the noncitizen served at least five years' imprisonment; and (2) is not inadmissible to, or deportable from, the United States due to such a conviction. DHS may waive such eligibility requirements for humanitarian purposes, to assure family unity, due to exceptional service in the U.S. Armed Forces, or if such waiver otherwise is in the public interest.

A noncitizen veteran or service member shall not be removed from the United States unless he or she has a criminal conviction for a crime of violence.

A noncitizen who has obtained the status of a noncitizen lawfully admitted for permanent residence under this bill shall be eligible for naturalization through service in the U.S. Armed Forces, except that: (1) the grounds on which the noncitizen was ordered removed from, or rendered inadmissible to or deportable from, the United States shall be disregarded when determining whether the noncitizen is a person of good moral character; and (2) any period of absence from the United States due to the noncitizen having been removed or being inadmissible shall be disregarded when determining if the noncitizen satisfies any requirement relating to continuous residence or physical presence.

A noncitizen who has obtained the status of a noncitizen lawfully admitted for permanent residence under this bill shall be eligible for all military and veterans benefits for which the individual would have been eligible if he or she had never been removed from, or voluntarily departed, the United States.

DHS shall: (1) identify cases involving service members and veterans at risk of removal from the United States, and (2) annotate all DHS immigration and naturalization records relating to any noncitizen involved and afford an opportunity to track the outcome.

Actions Timeline

- **Aug 11, 2016:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.
- **Jul 22, 2016:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security.
- **Jul 14, 2016:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.
- **Jul 8, 2016:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 8, 2016:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Veterans' Affairs, 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.