

## HR 6062

### SERVICE Act

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

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

**Introduced:** Sep 15, 2016

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

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. (Oct 19, 2016)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/6062>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41]

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

### Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Langevin, James R. [D-RI-2]	D · RI		Sep 20, 2016

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	House	Referred to	Oct 19, 2016
Budget Committee	House	Referred To	Sep 15, 2016
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred To	Sep 15, 2016
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred To	Sep 15, 2016
Financial Services Committee	House	Referred To	Sep 15, 2016
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	Sep 15, 2016
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Referred To	Sep 15, 2016
Small Business Committee	House	Referred To	Sep 15, 2016
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred To	Sep 15, 2016
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred To	Sep 15, 2016

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 6306	Related bill	Dec 5, 2016: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security.
114 HR 6151	Related bill	Oct 6, 2016: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.
114 HR 5162	Related bill	Sep 27, 2016: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
114 S 3330	Related bill	Sep 14, 2016: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
114 HR 3974	Related bill	Sep 6, 2016: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 549.
114 HR 5695	Related bill	Aug 11, 2016: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.
114 HR 5842	Related bill	Jul 14, 2016: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
114 S 3154	Related bill	Jul 11, 2016: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
114 HR 5501	Related bill	Jun 27, 2016: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
114 S 3003	Related bill	May 26, 2016: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
114 S 2679	Related bill	May 24, 2016: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-702.
114 HR 3484	Related bill	May 17, 2016: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 442.
114 HR 5083	Related bill	May 13, 2016: Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.
114 HR 5175	Related bill	May 11, 2016: Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Voice Vote .
114 HR 3419	Related bill	Apr 14, 2016: Subcommittee Hearings Held.
114 HR 3988	Related bill	Mar 23, 2016: Referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.
114 S 2661	Related bill	Mar 10, 2016: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
114 HR 2360	Related bill	Feb 10, 2016: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
114 HR 3951	Related bill	Dec 3, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
114 HR 3970	Related bill	Dec 3, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
114 S 2134	Related bill	Nov 18, 2015: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-252.
114 S 2253	Related bill	Nov 18, 2015: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-252.
114 HR 1384	Related bill	Nov 17, 2015: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
114 HR 3755	Related bill	Oct 21, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
114 S 2013	Related bill	Oct 6, 2015: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-242.
114 S 1451	Related bill	Sep 16, 2015: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-212.
114 S 1938	Related bill	Sep 16, 2015: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-212.
114 S 1400	Related bill	Sep 15, 2015: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 222.
114 HR 333	Related bill	Aug 13, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 1227	Related bill	Aug 13, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.
114 HR 1969	Related bill	Aug 13, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.
114 HR 2237	Related bill	Aug 13, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.
114 HR 3068	Related bill	Aug 13, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.
114 HR 3423	Related bill	Aug 6, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.
114 HR 1607	Related bill	Jul 28, 2015: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
114 HR 2981	Related bill	Jul 17, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.
114 HR 251	Related bill	Jul 15, 2015: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.
114 HR 2914	Related bill	Jul 14, 2015: Subcommittee Hearings Held.
114 HR 2894	Related bill	Jul 2, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
114 HR 2766	Related bill	Jun 30, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.
114 S 1085	Related bill	Jun 24, 2015: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-186.
114 S 1664	Related bill	Jun 24, 2015: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
114 HR 2531	Related bill	Jun 5, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.
114 HR 474	Related bill	May 19, 2015: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
114 HR 1313	Related bill	May 19, 2015: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
114 HR 1382	Related bill	May 19, 2015: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
114 HR 732	Related bill	May 14, 2015: Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee in the Nature of a Substitute (Amended) by Voice Vote .
114 HR 1331	Related bill	May 14, 2015: Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Voice Vote .
114 HR 2327	Related bill	May 14, 2015: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
114 HR 1948	Related bill	May 11, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
114 HR 2221	Related bill	May 1, 2015: Referred to the House Committee on Small Business.
114 HR 456	Related bill	Apr 16, 2015: Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Voice Vote .
114 HR 1598	Related bill	Apr 7, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.
114 S 865	Related bill	Mar 25, 2015: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
114 S 733	Related bill	Mar 12, 2015: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
114 HR 280	Related bill	Mar 3, 2015: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 483	Related bill	<b>Feb 19, 2015:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security.
114 HR 658	Related bill	<b>Feb 13, 2015:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.
114 HR 218	Related bill	<b>Feb 6, 2015:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

## **Supporting, Employing, and Recognizing Veterans in Communities Everywhere Act or the SERVICE Act**

### **TITLE I--ACCOUNTABILITY**

This bill establishes in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) the Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection and expands VA whistleblower protections.

The VA may remove and suspend (without pay) employees based on performance or misconduct that threatens the health and safety of veterans.

The VA: (1) shall reduce the federal annuity of an individual removed from the VA Senior Executive Service (SES) who is convicted of a felony that influenced his or her performance; (2) may reduce the federal annuity of an individual who was convicted of such a felony and was subject to removal or transfer from the SES but who left the VA before final action was taken; and (3) may recoup awards, bonus, or relocation expenses paid to a VA employee who has committed an act of fraud, waste, or malfeasance.

### **TITLE II--HEALTH CARE**

The VA may enter into contracts or agreements with eligible providers to furnish hospital care and medical services to electing, eligible veterans, which include veterans who are unable to schedule an appointment with a VA health care provider within a specified time frame or who do not reside within 40 miles of a VA medical facility. Such provisions may be referred to as the Veterans Choice Program.

VA emergency treatment reimbursement in non-VA facilities shall include reimbursement for urgent care.

The bill: (1) expands and makes permanent the VA childcare program for beneficiaries, and (2) provides for adoption assistance for certain disabled veterans.

The caregiver support program is terminated on October 1, 2020.

The bill: (1) authorizes the transfer of entitlement to Post 9/11 education assistance to family members by veterans who are retired for a physical disability or who are seriously injured veterans in need of family caregiver services, without regard to length-of-service requirements; (2) expands the family caregiver program; (3) establishes the Office of Health Care Quality in the Veterans Health Administration; and (4) revises physician recruitment and retention provisions.

The VA shall: (1) report annually, through 2020, on disability claims based on a mental health condition alleged to have been incurred or aggravated by military sexual trauma; (2) establish a pilot program for veterans with chronic pain issues, including those veterans who are dependent on opioids; and (3) establish a center of excellence for the treatment of burn pit and other environmental exposures.

### **TITLE III--EDUCATION**

The bill increases oversight of schools eligible to receive veterans benefits and increases counseling and access to information for student veterans.

The VA shall establish: (1) an interagency working group to share information on education programs that employ deceptive or misleading practices, and (2) the Grow Our Own Directive (G.O.O.D.) pilot program to provide educational

assistance to certain former members of the Armed Forces for education and training as VA physician assistants.

If, as a result of a permanent school closure, a veteran is forced to discontinue a course, did not receive credit, or lost training time toward completion of the education program, VA educational assistance payments shall not be: (1) charged against the individual's entitlement to educational assistance, or (2) counted against the aggregate assistance period.

Certain reserves active duty time shall be considered for purposes of Post-9/11 educational assistance eligibility.

#### **TITLE IV--DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND PENSION**

The bill amends the disability benefits appeals process.

The definition of "spouse" is amended for purposes of veterans' benefits to require the VA to recognize a marriage based on the law of the state where the marriage occurred. A marriage that occurs outside a state shall be recognized if such marriage is lawful in the place where it occurs and could have been entered into under the laws of any state.

The bill allows the receipt of both military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation with respect to any service-connected disability.

The bill extends for two years: (1) the VA presumption of service connection for diseases associated with exposure to certain herbicides, including Agent Orange, with respect to specified veterans who served in Vietnam; and (2) VA authority to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to evaluate evidence regarding associations between diseases and exposure to dioxin and other chemical compounds in herbicides, including herbicides used in military operations in the Vietnam and each disease suspected to be associated with such exposure.

#### **TITLE V--HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS**

VA homeless veterans reintegration programs are extended.

The VA shall begin a three-year pilot program to assess the feasibility of awarding grants to eligible entities to purchase and renovate abandoned homes for homeless veterans.

The bill establishes the Veterans Homelessness Grant Fund.

#### **TITLE VI--EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

The Department of Defense (DOD) may carry out a pilot program to enhance DOD efforts to provide job placement assistance and related employment services directly to members of the National Guard and Reserves and veterans of the Armed Forces.

The VA may, in awarding a contract or task order for the procurement of goods or services, give preference to offerors based on the percentage of their full-time employees who are veterans.

The Department of Labor shall carry out a five-year pilot program to award grants to manufacturing employers and labor-management organizations that provide eligible veterans with training, apprenticeships, and certification.

#### **TITLE VII--CONSTRUCTION AND LEASES**

No funds may be appropriated for any major medical facility lease unless the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives adopt resolutions approving the lease.

The VA shall: (1) enter into partnership agreements with appropriate non-federal entities for major construction projects, and (2) carry out a pilot program to accept the donation of medical facilities and related property.

The VA may carry out: (1) certain leases at the Department of Veterans Affairs West Los Angeles Campus in Los Angeles, California; and (2) a major medical facility lease for an outpatient clinic in Oxnard, California.

## TITLE VIII--OTHER MATTERS

The Department of Homeland Security shall: (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.

Each military department shall ensure that its oral historians review the circumstances surrounding members of the Armed Forces who were discharged between World War II and September 2011 because of their sexual orientation.

Certain service performed before July 1, 1946, in the organized military forces of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts is deemed to be active military service for VA benefits purposes.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Oct 19, 2016:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.
- **Sep 15, 2016:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 15, 2016:** Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Oversight and Government Reform, Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, Education and the Workforce, Financial Services, Small Business, the Budget, and the Judiciary, 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.