

S 646

Medical Evaluation Parity for Servicemembers Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Mar 3, 2015

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. (Mar 3, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/646>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]

Party: Republican • **State:** OH • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Mar 3, 2015
Sen. Toomey, Patrick [R-PA]	R · PA		Mar 24, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 3, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 1465	Identical bill	Jun 5, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Medical Evaluation Parity for Servicemembers Act of 2015

Directs the Secretary of the military department concerned to: (1) provide an individual with a mental health screening before such individual enlists or is commissioned as an officer in the Armed Forces, and (2) use such results as a baseline for any subsequent mental health examinations.

Prohibits the Secretary from considering the results of such screening in determining the promotion of a member of the Armed Forces.

Directs the Secretary to treat a screening in the same manner as medical records with respect to laws and regulations relating to the privacy of information.

Requires the National Institute of Mental Health of the National Institutes of Health to submit to Congress and the Department of Defense (DOD) a report on preliminary mental health screenings of members of the Armed Forces, including recommendations regarding: (1) establishing preliminary mental health screenings to establish parity with physical screenings; and (2) the composition of the mental health screening, evidenced-based best practices, and how to track changes relating to traumatic brain injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other conditions.

Directs DOD and the Government Accountability Office to report on the efficacy of preliminary mental health screenings. Requires DOD to report on the efficacy of the mental health components of the physical examinations to members of the Armed Forces who are separated from active duty.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 3, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 3, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.