

HR 800

Express Appeals Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Feb 5, 2015

Current Status: Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee in the Nature of a Substitute (Amended) by Voice Vote .

Latest Action: Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee in the Nature of a Substitute (Amended) by Voice Vote .
(Jul 9, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/800>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. O'Rourke, Beto [D-TX-16]

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

Cosponsors (25 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Brown, Corrine [D-FL-5]	D · FL		Feb 5, 2015
Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]	D · CA		Feb 5, 2015
Rep. Cook, Paul [R-CA-8]	R · CA		Feb 5, 2015
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]	D · CA		Feb 5, 2015
Rep. Kirkpatrick, Ann [D-AZ-1]	D · AZ		Feb 5, 2015
Rep. Miller, Jeff [R-FL-1]	R · FL		Feb 5, 2015
Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1]	D · NV		Feb 5, 2015
Rep. Young, Don [R-AK-At Large]	R · AK		Feb 11, 2015
Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1]	D · RI		Feb 24, 2015
Rep. Loebsack, David [D-IA-2]	D · IA		Mar 23, 2015
Rep. Costello, Ryan A. [R-PA-6]	R · PA		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Kilmer, Derek [D-WA-6]	D · WA		Apr 28, 2015
Rep. Gabbard, Tulsi [D-HI-2]	D · HI		May 13, 2015
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		May 20, 2015
Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]	D · VT		May 20, 2015
Rep. McSally, Martha [R-AZ-2]	R · AZ		Jun 2, 2015
Rep. Courtney, Joe [D-CT-2]	D · CT		Jun 23, 2015
Rep. Young, David [R-IA-3]	R · IA		Jul 7, 2015
Rep. Hurd, Will [R-TX-23]	R · TX		Jul 28, 2015
Rep. Young, Todd [R-IN-9]	R · IN		Dec 1, 2015
Rep. Kaptur, Marcy [D-OH-9]	D · OH		Feb 3, 2016
Rep. Hinojosa, Ruben [D-TX-15]	D · TX		Mar 14, 2016
Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3]	D · OH		Apr 14, 2016
Rep. Massie, Thomas [R-KY-4]	R · KY		Jul 6, 2016
Rep. Langevin, James R. [D-RI-2]	D · RI		Sep 9, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Reported by	Jul 9, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 2473	Related bill	Mar 15, 2016: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-558.

Express Appeals Act

Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to: (1) carry out a five-year pilot program to provide the option of an alternative appeals process to determine appeals of claims for disability compensation more quickly, and (2) inform claimants about such program.

Describes appeals filed under the pilot program as "fully developed appeals."

Authorizes a claimant to elect to file a fully developed appeal by filing with the Secretary: (1) a notice of disagreement along with the claimant's written election to have the appeal determined under the pilot program, (2) all evidence that the claimant believes is needed for the appeal, and (3) a statement of the argument in support of the claim. Requires the Secretary to transfer jurisdiction over a fully developed appeal directly to the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

Requires a claimant to make such election: (1) at any time during the traditional appeal process if the claimant has filed a traditional appeal before the pilot program commences, or (2) when the claimant files the notice of disagreement if the claimant has not filed a traditional appeal.

Directs the Secretary to inform a claimant who seeks to change a traditional appeal to a fully developed appeal as to whether any time will be saved. Allows a claimant who elects to file a fully developed appeal to elect to revert to a traditional appeal at any time.

Requires the Board of Veterans' Appeals to: (1) maintain fully developed appeals on a separate docket; (2) hear fully developed appeals in the order received; (3) decide not more than one fully developed appeal for each four traditional appeals decided, though this ratio may be adjusted for fairness purposes beginning one year after the pilot program begins; and (4) decide, to the extent practicable, each fully developed appeal within one year of a claimant's filing the notice of disagreement.

Sets forth provisions regarding: (1) the effects of new evidence submitted or additional information needed after a fully developed appeal is filed, and (2) a prohibition against the Board providing hearings for fully developed appeals.

Directs the Board to establish an office to develop federal records, independent medical opinions, and new medical exams that the Board deems necessary to decide a fully developed appeal.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 9, 2015:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Jul 9, 2015:** Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee in the Nature of a Substitute (Amended) by Voice Vote .
- **Apr 14, 2015:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **Feb 20, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.
- **Feb 5, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 5, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.