

S 1024

Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: May 3, 2017

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 166.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 166. (Jul 10, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1024>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Isakson, Johnny [R-GA]

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

Cosponsors (31 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		May 3, 2017
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		May 3, 2017
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		May 3, 2017
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		May 3, 2017
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		May 3, 2017
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		May 3, 2017
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		May 3, 2017
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		May 3, 2017
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		May 17, 2017
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		May 17, 2017
Sen. Hatch, Orrin G. [R-UT]	R · UT		May 17, 2017
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		May 24, 2017
Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]	R · SD		Jun 14, 2017
Sen. Heller, Dean [R-NV]	R · NV		Jun 15, 2017
Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID]	R · ID		Jun 20, 2017
Sen. Cochran, Thad [R-MS]	R · MS		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Jun 27, 2017
Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]	D · WV		Jun 27, 2017
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		Jun 27, 2017
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Jun 28, 2017
Sen. Enzi, Michael B. [R-WY]	R · WY		Jun 29, 2017
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Jun 29, 2017
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		Jun 29, 2017
Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]	D · FL		Jun 29, 2017
Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD]	R · SD		Jun 29, 2017
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Jul 13, 2017
Sen. Donnelly, Joe [D-IN]	D · IN		Jul 13, 2017
Sen. Hoeven, John [R-ND]	R · ND		Jul 13, 2017
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Jul 18, 2017
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Jul 19, 2017
Sen. Roberts, Pat [R-KS]	R · KS		Jul 24, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Jul 10, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 2288	Related bill	Aug 23, 2017: Became Public Law No: 115-55.
115 S 933	Related bill	Apr 25, 2017: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
115 S 712	Related bill	Mar 23, 2017: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
115 HR 457	Related bill	Feb 3, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

Summary (as of May 3, 2017)

Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017

This bill revises the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability claims appeals system.

The bill permits a veteran to appeal within one year by: (1) requesting a review of the agency of original jurisdiction's (AOJ) decision by a higher-level adjudicator within AOJ using the same evidentiary record; (2) filing a supplemental claim with a regional office that includes the opportunity to submit additional evidence and have a hearing; or (3) appealing directly to the Board of Veterans' Appeals, with the opportunity to select an expedited review to submit new evidence but without a hearing, or to select a review with the option to submit new evidence and request a hearing.

A veteran may: (1) maintain the original effective date of a claim if he or she submits new and relevant evidence within one year of the most recent decision, and (2) retain the services of attorneys and accredited agents who charge a fee when the AOJ provides notice of the original decision.

The VA's statutory duty to assist a veteran terminates after the original decision.

The bill: (1) requires the VA to issue decision notification letters, (2) permits certain veterans who initiated an appeal prior to the bill's effective date to opt-in to the new appeals system, (3) authorizes the VA to conduct a pilot program to test such system, and (4) requires the VA, prior to full implementation, to certify to Congress that it has sufficient resources and personnel to carry out the legacy and new appeals systems.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 10, 2017:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Reported by Senator Isakson with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. With written report No. 115-126.
- **Jul 10, 2017:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 166.
- **Jun 28, 2017:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **May 17, 2017:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 115-299.
- **May 3, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 3, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.