

HR 1259

VA Accountability First Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Feb 28, 2017

Current Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (Mar 21, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1259>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Roe, David P. [R-TN-1]

Party: Republican • **State:** TN • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (26 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. Radewagen, Aumua Amata Coleman [R-AS-At Large]	R · AS		Feb 28, 2017
Rep. Arrington, Jodey C. [R-TX-19]	R · TX		Feb 28, 2017
Rep. Banks, Jim [R-IN-3]	R · IN		Feb 28, 2017
Rep. Bergman, Jack [R-MI-1]	R · MI		Feb 28, 2017
Rep. Bilirakis, Gus M. [R-FL-12]	R · FL		Feb 28, 2017
Rep. Bost, Mike [R-IL-12]	R · IL		Feb 28, 2017
Rep. Coffman, Mike [R-CO-6]	R · CO		Feb 28, 2017
Rep. Poliquin, Bruce [R-ME-2]	R · ME		Feb 28, 2017
Rep. Wenstrup, Brad R. [R-OH-2]	R · OH		Feb 28, 2017
Resident Commissioner González-Colón, Jenniffer [R-PR-At Large]	R · PR		Feb 28, 2017
Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6]	R · FL		Mar 2, 2017
Rep. Higgins, Clay [R-LA-3]	R · LA		Mar 2, 2017
Rep. Royce, Edward R. [R-CA-39]	R · CA		Mar 2, 2017
Rep. Davidson, Warren [R-OH-8]	R · OH		Mar 6, 2017
Rep. Pittenger, Robert [R-NC-9]	R · NC		Mar 6, 2017
Rep. Walorski, Jackie [R-IN-2]	R · IN		Mar 6, 2017
Rep. Byrne, Bradley [R-AL-1]	R · AL		Mar 9, 2017
Rep. Cole, Tom [R-OK-4]	R · OK		Mar 9, 2017
Rep. Dunn, Neal P. [R-FL-2]	R · FL		Mar 9, 2017
Rep. Harper, Gregg [R-MS-3]	R · MS		Mar 9, 2017
Rep. Renacci, James B. [R-OH-16]	R · OH		Mar 9, 2017
Rep. Rokita, Todd [R-IN-4]	R · IN		Mar 9, 2017
Rep. Sessions, Pete [R-TX-32]	R · TX		Mar 9, 2017
Rep. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ-9]	D · AZ		Mar 9, 2017
Rep. Johnson, Sam [R-TX-3]	R · TX		Mar 10, 2017
Rep. Tipton, Scott R. [R-CO-3]	R · CO		Mar 10, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Discharged From	Mar 10, 2017
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Reported By	Mar 10, 2017
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 21, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 S 2807	Related bill	May 9, 2018: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
115 HR 1690	Related bill	Jul 25, 2017: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
115 HRES 198	Related bill	Mar 16, 2017: Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
115 S 493	Related bill	Mar 2, 2017: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Summary (as of Mar 16, 2017)

VA Accountability First Act of 2017

(Sec. 3) This bill revises the authority of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to remove, demote by a reduction in grade and pay, or suspend a VA employee, including a member in a senior executive position, for reasons of performance or misconduct.

A demoted individual shall not be placed on administrative leave during the appeals period and may receive pay only if he or she reports for duty or is approved to use certain accrued unused leave.

An expedited appeals process is established for such VA decisions, including the right to appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board.

The VA may not remove, demote, or suspend an employee: (1) without the approval of the Special Counsel if the individual seeks corrective action from the Office of Special Counsel based on an alleged prohibited personnel practice, and (2) until a final decision in the case of a whistle-blower complaint.

Whistle-blower protections are revised, including to prohibit the VA from taking any such action against a person who has a pending whistle-blower complaint.

(Sec. 4) The VA 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 while employed in such position.

The VA may: (1) 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 (2) recoup an award, a bonus, or relocation expenses paid to a VA employee under specified circumstances.

(Sec. 8) The VA may directly appoint qualifying individuals to the positions of Medical Center Director and Director of Veterans Integrated Service Network.

(Sec. 9) The bill revises time periods for adverse action reviews with respect to physicians, dentists, podiatrists, chiropractors, optometrists, registered nurses, physician assistants, and expanded-function dental auxiliaries.

(Sec. 10) The VA shall report to Congress annually on performance awards and bonuses awarded to certain high-level employees.

(Sec. 11) The VA shall: (1) ensure that supervisors are evaluated on actions taken to improve employee performance, and (2) provide supervisors with training on whistle-blower protections.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 21, 2017:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
- **Mar 16, 2017:** Considered under the provisions of rule H. Res. 198. (consideration: CR H2114-2135)
- **Mar 16, 2017:** House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union pursuant to H. Res. 198 and Rule XVIII.
- **Mar 16, 2017:** The Speaker designated the Honorable Harold Rogers to act as Chairman of the Committee.
- **Mar 16, 2017:** GENERAL DEBATE - The Committee of the Whole proceeded with one hour of general debate on H.R. 1259.
- **Mar 16, 2017:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H.Res. 198, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Roe (TN) Part A amendment No. 1.
- **Mar 16, 2017:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H.Res. 198, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Walz Part A amendment No. 2.
- **Mar 16, 2017:** POSTPONED PROCEEDINGS - At the conclusion of debate on the Walz Part A amendment No. 2, the Chair put the question on adoption of the amendment and by voice vote announced that the noes had prevailed. Mr. Walz demanded a recorded vote and the Chair postponed further proceedings on the question of adoption of the amendment until a time to be announced.
- **Mar 16, 2017:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 198, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Kuster(NH) Part A amendment No. 4.
- **Mar 16, 2017:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 198, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Taylor Part A amendment No. 6.
- **Mar 16, 2017:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 198, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Tenney Part A amendment No. 7.
- **Mar 16, 2017:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 198, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Kuster(NH) Part A amendment No. 8.
- **Mar 16, 2017:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 198, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Takano Part A amendment No. 9.
- **Mar 16, 2017:** POSTPONED PROCEEDINGS - At the conclusion of debate on the Takano Part A amendment No. 9, the Chair put the question on adoption of the amendment and by voice vote announced that the noes had prevailed. Mr. Takano demanded a recorded vote and the Chair postponed further proceedings on the question of adoption of the amendment until a time to be announced.
- **Mar 16, 2017:** UNFINISHED BUSINESS - The Chair announced that the unfinished business was on adoption of amendments, which had been debated earlier and on which further proceedings had been postponed.
- **Mar 16, 2017:** The House rose from the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union to report H.R. 1259.
- **Mar 16, 2017:** The previous question was ordered pursuant to the rule.
- **Mar 16, 2017:** The House adopted the amendment in the nature of a substitute as agreed to by the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union. (text of amendment in the nature of a substitute: CR H2122-2125)
- **Mar 16, 2017:** Mr. Kihuen moved to recommit with instructions to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (text: CR H2133)
- **Mar 16, 2017:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the motion to recommit with instructions. The instructions contained in the motion seek to require the bill to be reported back to the House with an amendment to add language to the bill further defining protections to whistleblowers who file complaints.
- **Mar 16, 2017:** The previous question on the motion to recommit with instructions was ordered without objection.
- **Mar 16, 2017:** On motion to recommit with instructions Failed by recorded vote: 189 - 229 (Roll no. 167).
- **Mar 16, 2017:** Passed/agreed to in House: On passage Passed by recorded vote: 237 - 178 (Roll no. 168).
- **Mar 16, 2017:** On passage Passed by recorded vote: 237 - 178 (Roll no. 168).
- **Mar 16, 2017:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Mar 10, 2017:** Reported by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H. Rept. 115-34, Part I.
- **Mar 10, 2017:** Committee on Oversight and Government discharged.
- **Mar 10, 2017:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 16.
- **Feb 28, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 28, 2017:** Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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.