

S 1325

Better Workforce for Veterans Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jun 8, 2017

Current Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 115-320.

Latest Action: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 115-320. (Jul 11, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1325>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]

Party: Democratic • **State:** MT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID]	R · ID		Jun 8, 2017
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Jun 8, 2017
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Jun 8, 2017
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		Jun 8, 2017
Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]	R · KS		Jun 8, 2017
Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]	D · FL		Jul 10, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	Jul 11, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 3158	Related bill	Jun 29, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.

Better Workforce for Veterans Act of 2017

This bill authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to appoint qualified graduates and post-secondary students to competitive service positions without regard to certain federal civil service employment and retention provisions.

The VA shall allow for excepted service appointments of qualifying students and recent graduates leading to career or career conditional employment.

The VA may appoint: (1) highly qualified candidates without regard to competitive service provisions if the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) determines that the VA has a severe shortage of highly qualified candidates, and (2) former highly qualified federal employees to high-demand VA positions without regard to such provisions.

The VA shall: (1) develop a resume-based application method for senior executive appointments comparable to the OPM resume-based application method; (2) establish a single database that lists each vacant position that is critical to the VA's mission, difficult to fill, or both; (3) measure and collect specified information on hiring effectiveness; (4) develop a standardized VA exit survey; (5) publish information on VA nurse staffing levels; (6) develop a tool for Veterans Health Administration (VHA) human resources employees to assess their knowledge relating to how certain VA health care providers are treated differently than other VA employees; (7) include mental health professionals and marriage and family therapists in the VA education and training program; and (8) provide VHA human resources professionals with employee recruitment and retention training.

The VA and the Surgeon General shall enter into a memorandum of understanding for the assignment of at least 500 commissioned officers of the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service to the VA.

The bill revises provisions regarding: (1) pay for medical center and veterans integrated service network directors, (2) the hiring preference service requirement, and (3) VA reductions in force.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 11, 2017:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 115-320.
- **Jun 8, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 8, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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