

S 152

VA Accountability First and Appeals Modernization Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jan 17, 2017

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (Jan 17, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/152>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]

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

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Jan 17, 2017
Sen. Toomey, Patrick [R-PA]	R · PA		Jan 17, 2017
Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]	R · IA		Jan 30, 2017
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		Mar 1, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 17, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 611	Identical bill	Feb 3, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.

VA Accountability First and Appeals Modernization Act of 2017

This bill authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to remove or demote a VA employee based on performance or misconduct. The VA may remove such individual from the civil service or demote the individual through a reduction in grade or annual pay rate.

A demoted individual shall not be placed on administrative leave or any other category of paid leave during the appeals period and can receive pay only if he or she reports for duty.

The bill: (1) establishes an expedited appeals process by the Merit Systems Protection Board, (2) amends the disability benefits appeals process, (3) prescribes restrictions on the VA's authority to remove or demote an employee, and (4) establishes whistleblower protections.

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 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.

The VA may recoup an award, a bonus, or relocation expenses paid to a VA employee under specified circumstances.

The VA may suspend, reprimand or admonish an SES employee for misconduct or performance that does not merit removal. Appeals may be made to the Senior Executive Disciplinary Appeals Board (as provided for by this bill).

The bill amends the disability benefits appeals process.

The bill prohibits payment of an award or bonus to any SES employee during each of FY2017-FY2021.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 17, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 17, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.