

S 1598

Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jul 20, 2017

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 200.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 200. (Aug 2, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1598>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (63 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]	R · MO		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]	R · LA		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID]	R · ID		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Donnelly, Joe [D-IN]	D · IN		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE]	R · NE		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Heitkamp, Heidi [D-ND]	D · ND		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Heller, Dean [R-NV]	R · NV		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Inhofe, James M. [R-OK]	R · OK		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]	D · WV		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]	R · KS		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]	D · FL		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Roberts, Pat [R-KS]	R · KS		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD]	R · SD		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Sullivan, Dan [R-AK]	R · AK		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Jul 20, 2017
Sen. Kennedy, John [R-LA]	R · LA		Jul 24, 2017
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Jul 24, 2017

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jul 25, 2017
Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]	R · IA		Jul 25, 2017
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jul 25, 2017
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		Jul 25, 2017
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Jul 26, 2017
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Jul 26, 2017
Sen. Cochran, Thad [R-MS]	R · MS		Jul 26, 2017
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jul 26, 2017
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Jul 26, 2017
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Jul 26, 2017
Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Jul 26, 2017
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Jul 26, 2017
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Jul 27, 2017
Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]	R · SD		Jul 27, 2017
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Jul 27, 2017
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Jul 27, 2017
Sen. Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]	R · SC		Jul 31, 2017
Sen. Strange, Luther [R-AL]	R · AL		Jul 31, 2017
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Aug 1, 2017
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Aug 1, 2017
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		Aug 2, 2017
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Aug 2, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Aug 2, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 3372	Related bill	Jul 24, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.
115 S 1555	Related bill	Jul 13, 2017: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017

This bill revises education and related benefits provided to veterans, service members, dependents, and survivors.

The bill amends the Post-9/11 veterans' educational assistance program to:

- remove certain time restrictions on program use;
- increase assistance for reservists, guardsmen, dependents, and surviving spouses and dependents;
- provide full eligibility for Post-9/11 Purple Heart recipients and certain reservists and guardsmen;
- provide an extra academic years' worth of benefits for STEM (science, technology, engineering, or mathematics) degree candidates;
- establish a five-year pilot program for high technology courses;
- restore eligibility for service members whose school closes in the middle of a semester;
- authorize funding to improve claims processing;
- permit assistance to be used at certain institutions that are not institutions of higher education; and
- pro-rate the housing stipend for reservists called to active duty.

The bill authorizes the Edith Nurse Rogers STEM Scholarship to help veterans complete STEM degrees.

The Yellow Ribbon program is extended to Fry Scholarship recipients (surviving dependents of service members who died on active duty) and certain Purple Heart recipients. (The Yellow Ribbon program helps veterans pay for higher education tuition and fee costs not covered by the Post-9/11 program.)

The bill: (1) extends the Advisory Committee on Education, (2) increases survivors' and dependents' educational assistance, and (3) extends funding for state educational program approving agencies.

The bill provides statutory authority for the veterans success of campus program which provides veterans with on-campus educational and vocational counseling.

The Department of Veterans Affairs shall: (1) make a new determination regarding each denied veteran's claim for disability compensation in connection with full-body exposure to mustard gas or Lewisite at specified locations during World War II, and (2) presume such exposure unless there is affirmative evidence otherwise.

Actions Timeline

- **Aug 2, 2017:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Reported by Senator Isakson without amendment. Without written report.
- **Aug 2, 2017:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 200.
- **Jul 26, 2017:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Jul 20, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 20, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.