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BEST Practices Act

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Mar 2, 2017

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. (Mar 2, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/498>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]

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

Cosponsors (5 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|---------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI] | D · MI | | Mar 2, 2017 |
| Sen. Heller, Dean [R-NV] | R · NV | | Dec 5, 2017 |
| Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD] | D · MD | | Dec 5, 2017 |
| Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD] | D · MD | | Mar 12, 2018 |
| Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ] | D · NJ | | Jul 17, 2018 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|--------------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|
| Armed Services Committee | Senate | Referred To | Mar 2, 2017 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|--------------|---|
| 115 HR 1243 | Related bill | Mar 23, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities. |

Battlefield Excellence through Superior Training Practices Act or the BEST Practices Act

This bill requires the Department of Defense (DOD), no later than: (1) October 1, 2020, to develop, test, and validate human-based training methods for training members of the Armed Forces in the treatment of combat trauma injuries, with the goal of replacing live animal-based training methods; and (2) October 1, 2022, to use only use human-based training methods for such purposes.

The bill prohibits the use of animals in such training after the latter date, but permits DOD to exempt a particular command or training method from human-based training method requirements for up to one year if the human-based methods will not provide an educationally equivalent or superior substitute for live animal-based training methods. Allows exemption periods to be renewed.

DOD shall submit an annual report to Congress regarding the development and implementation of the human-based training methods, including the justifications for any exemptions.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 2, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 2, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.