

## HR 611

VA Accountability First and Appeals Modernization Act of 2017

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Armed Forces and National Security

**Introduced:** Jan 23, 2017

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. (Feb 3, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/611>

### Sponsor

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**Name:** Rep. Lamborn, Doug [R-CO-5]

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

## Cosponsors (35 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Carter, Earl L. "Buddy" [R-GA-1]	R · GA		Jan 30, 2017
Rep. Denham, Jeff [R-CA-10]	R · CA		Jan 30, 2017
Rep. Farenthold, Blake [R-TX-27]	R · TX		Jan 30, 2017
Rep. Franks, Trent [R-AZ-8]	R · AZ		Jan 30, 2017
Rep. Himes, James A. [D-CT-4]	D · CT		Jan 30, 2017
Rep. McClintock, Tom [R-CA-4]	R · CA		Jan 30, 2017
Rep. Rooney, Thomas J. [R-FL-17]	R · FL		Jan 30, 2017
Rep. Rouzer, David [R-NC-7]	R · NC		Jan 30, 2017
Rep. Scott, Austin [R-GA-8]	R · GA		Jan 30, 2017
Rep. Smith, Lamar [R-TX-21]	R · TX		Jan 30, 2017
Rep. Stivers, Steve [R-OH-15]	R · OH		Jan 30, 2017
Rep. Thompson, Glenn [R-PA-5]	R · PA		Jan 30, 2017
Rep. Tipton, Scott R. [R-CO-3]	R · CO		Jan 30, 2017
Rep. Allen, Rick W. [R-GA-12]	R · GA		Feb 2, 2017
Rep. Collins, Chris [R-NY-27]	R · NY		Feb 2, 2017
Rep. Higgins, Clay [R-LA-3]	R · LA		Feb 2, 2017
Rep. Johnson, Bill [R-OH-6]	R · OH		Feb 2, 2017
Rep. King, Steve [R-IA-4]	R · IA		Feb 2, 2017
Rep. Olson, Pete [R-TX-22]	R · TX		Feb 2, 2017
Rep. Perry, Scott [R-PA-4]	R · PA		Feb 2, 2017
Rep. Valadao, David G. [R-CA-21]	R · CA		Feb 2, 2017
Rep. Wittman, Robert J. [R-VA-1]	R · VA		Feb 2, 2017
Rep. Young, David [R-IA-3]	R · IA		Feb 2, 2017
Rep. Bishop, Mike [R-MI-8]	R · MI		Feb 14, 2017
Rep. Garrett, Thomas A., Jr. [R-VA-5]	R · VA		Feb 14, 2017
Rep. Gibbs, Bob [R-OH-7]	R · OH		Feb 14, 2017
Rep. Hensarling, Jeb [R-TX-5]	R · TX		Feb 14, 2017
Rep. Smith, Jason [R-MO-8]	R · MO		Feb 14, 2017
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-8]	R · PA		Feb 28, 2017
Rep. Graves, Tom [R-GA-14]	R · GA		Feb 28, 2017
Rep. Poe, Ted [R-TX-2]	R · TX		Mar 8, 2017
Rep. Rice, Tom [R-SC-7]	R · SC		Mar 8, 2017
Rep. Trott, David A. [R-MI-11]	R · MI		May 4, 2017
Rep. Marchant, Kenny [R-TX-24]	R · TX		Nov 30, 2017
Rep. Wagner, Ann [R-MO-2]	R · MO		Jan 29, 2018

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Referred To	Jan 23, 2017
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 3, 2017

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 S 152	Identical bill	<b>Jan 17, 2017:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

### Summary (as of Jan 23, 2017)

#### 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

- **Feb 3, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.
- **Jan 23, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 23, 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.