

S 646

Justice for Servicemembers and Veterans Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Mar 15, 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. (Mar 15, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/646>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]

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

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Mar 15, 2017
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Mar 15, 2017
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Mar 15, 2017
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Mar 15, 2017
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Oct 31, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 15, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 2631	Related bill	Jun 29, 2017: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

Justice for Servicemembers and Veterans Act of 2017

This bill authorizes the Department of Justice (DOJ) to initiate an action for relief in a service member's employment or reemployment rights action with respect to: (1) a private or state employer, or (2) a state or private employer that is engaged in a pattern or practice to infringe upon such rights.

The bill provides that: (1) a person may bring an action against a state, state instrumentality, or state officer or employee acting in his or her official capacity in U.S. district court or state court (currently, only in state court), and (2) the state employer shall not be immune from such action under the Eleventh Amendment or under any other doctrine of sovereign immunity.

No such state, instrumentality, officer, or employee that receives or uses federal financial assistance for a program or activity shall be immune under the Eleventh Amendment or under any other doctrine of sovereign immunity from suit in federal or state court for any employment rights violation related to such program or activity.

The bill expands judicial venues for an action against a private employer.

DOJ may issue civil investigative demands in the enforcement of employment and reemployment rights of members of uniformed services with respect to states and private employers.

Service-related disability coverage is extended.

The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act is amended to revise protective provisions for service members regarding: (1) default judgments, including the requirement that a court shall not enter a judgment until it appoints an attorney for the defendant; (2) termination of residential and motor vehicle leases upon relocation; (3) DOJ issuance of civil investigative demands; and (4) vacating or setting aside judgments.

The bill provides for the portability of professional licenses of service members and their spouses who are relocated under military orders.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 15, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 15, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.