

HR 7784

VA Police Improvement and Accountability Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jul 24, 2020

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. (Oct 6, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/7784>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Rice, Kathleen M. [D-NY-4]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NY • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Pappas, Chris [D-NH-1]	D · NH		Jul 24, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Oct 6, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

VA Police Improvement and Accountability Act

This bill updates the staffing and responsibilities of police forces of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Specifically, the bill requires the VA to ensure that each of its police forces designates an employee to serve as a point of contact for its employees and the public regarding (1) statistical information (e.g., the use of force and weapons discharge), (2) complaints and investigations regarding officers at the facility, and (3) the provision of information to a person regarding personal arrest or other police matters.

The bill also requires the VA to provide information on the public websites of police facilities regarding specified statistical information and directions on how to contact the point of contact or receive information about specific matters.

The VA must provide annual training on (1) recognizing, defining, understanding, and avoiding racial profiling and implicit bias and best practices regarding the duty to intervene; and (2) preventing suicide among the population served by police officers.

Finally, the bill requires VA police officers to wear body cameras that have a field of view at least as broad as the officers' vision and capture footage of the officers' activities. The audio and video of the camera must be activated whenever an officer is responding to a call for service or other stop, except in situations where it is impossible or dangerous for the officer to do so. The VA's guidance on body cameras must be made publicly available.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 6, 2020:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.
- **Sep 10, 2020:** Committee Hearings Held.
- **Jul 24, 2020:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 24, 2020:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.