

## HR 8354

Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative Act of 2020

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

**Introduced:** Sep 23, 2020

**Current Status:** Became Public Law No: 116-288.

**Latest Action:** Became Public Law No: 116-288. (Jan 5, 2021)

**Law:** 116-288 (Enacted Jan 5, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/8354>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Escobar, Veronica [D-TX-16]

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

### Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Taylor, Van [R-TX-3]	R · TX		Sep 23, 2020
Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1]	D · RI		Sep 29, 2020
Rep. Garcia, Sylvia R. [D-TX-29]	D · TX		Sep 29, 2020
Rep. Chabot, Steve [R-OH-1]	R · OH		Nov 20, 2020
Rep. Correa, J. Luis [D-CA-46]	D · CA		Nov 20, 2020
Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-10]	D · NY		Dec 4, 2020
Rep. Neguse, Joe [D-CO-2]	D · CO		Dec 4, 2020

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Reported By	Dec 7, 2020

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 S 5010	Related bill	<b>Dec 10, 2020:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
116 S 4915	Identical bill	<b>Nov 18, 2020:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S7078-7079)

## Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative Act of 2020

This bill establishes the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice (DOJ).

The initiative shall

- serve as legal and policy advisor on DOJ's efforts to enforce criminal and civil laws that impact service members, veterans, and their families;
- develop policy recommendations for improved enforcement of federal law to support service members, veterans, and their families;
- serve as the liaison and point of contact between DOJ and the military departments;
- provide counsel for the Office of Justice Programs to ensure that funding decisions take into account service members, veterans, and their families;
- serve as a liaison and point of contact with the Consumer Protection Branch of DOJ's Civil Division with respect to the prosecution of federal crimes involving fraud that target service members; and
- serve as a liaison and point of contact with other DOJ components as needed to support the enforcement of other federal laws that protect service members and veterans.

## Actions Timeline

---

- **Jan 5, 2021:** Signed by President.
- **Jan 5, 2021:** Became Public Law No: 116-288.
- **Dec 24, 2020:** Presented to President.
- **Dec 16, 2020:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 15, 2020:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent.(consideration: CR S7507)
- **Dec 15, 2020:** Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S7507)
- **Dec 9, 2020:** Received in the Senate, read twice.
- **Dec 8, 2020:** Ms. Escobar moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Dec 8, 2020:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H7014-7015)
- **Dec 8, 2020:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 8354.
- **Dec 8, 2020:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Dec 8, 2020:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H7021-7022)
- **Dec 8, 2020:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 400 - 1 (Roll no. 239).
- **Dec 8, 2020:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 400 - 1 (Roll no. 239). (text: CR H7014)
- **Dec 8, 2020:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Dec 7, 2020:** Reported by the Committee on Judiciary. H. Rept. 116-618.
- **Dec 7, 2020:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 507.
- **Sep 29, 2020:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Sep 29, 2020:** Ordered to be Reported by Voice Vote.
- **Sep 23, 2020:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 23, 2020:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.