

HR 2704

Improving VA Accountability To Prevent Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Apr 20, 2021

Current Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (May 19, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2704>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Pappas, Chris [D-NH-1]

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

Cosponsors (3 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Rep. Hinson, Ashley [R-IA-1] | R · IA | | Apr 20, 2021 |
| Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2] | D · NH | | Apr 20, 2021 |
| Rep. Taylor, Van [R-TX-3] | R · TX | | May 17, 2021 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------|--------------|
| Veterans' Affairs Committee | House | Discharged from | May 4, 2021 |
| Veterans' Affairs Committee | Senate | Referred To | May 19, 2021 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|--------------|--------------|---|
| 117 HRES 403 | Related bill | May 18, 2021: Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection. |
| 117 S 1243 | Related bill | Apr 20, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. |

Improving VA Accountability To Prevent Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Act of 2021

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to implement various policies and procedures related to sexual harassment, other harassment, and employment discrimination.

The bill requires the VA to ensure that

- the official who serves as the VA's Equal Employment Opportunity Director reports directly to the Deputy Secretary and does not also serve in a position that has responsibility over personnel functions or functions that conflict with the equal employment functions,
- each Equal Employment Opportunity program manager at the facility level reports to the head of the Office of Resolution Management (ORM) with respect to equal employment functions, and
- the employment discrimination complaint resolution system requires any VA manager who receives a harassment or employment discrimination complaint to report such complaint to the ORM immediately (or within two business days of receiving the complaint if immediate reporting is impracticable).

The VA must provide employees with mandatory annual training on identifying and addressing sexual harassment, other harassment, and employment discrimination, including with respect to processes under the VA's Harassment Prevention Program.

The VA must regularly review the policies relating to sexual harassment, other harassment, and employment discrimination to ensure its policies are complete and in accordance with the policies established by the ORM. Additionally, the VA must issue a final directive and handbook for its Harassment Prevention Program.

Actions Timeline

- **May 19, 2021:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
- **May 18, 2021:** Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 403, proceedings on H.R. 2704 are considered vacated.
- **May 18, 2021:** Passed/agreed to in House: Pursuant to section 5 of H. Res. 403, and the motion offered by Mr. Hoyer, the following bills passed under suspension of the rules: H.R. 144, as amended; H.R. 204, as amended; H.R. 210, as amended; H.R. 240; H.R. 707, as amended; H.R. 711, as amended; H.R. 1157, as amended; H.R. 1447, as amended; H.R. 1510, as amended; H.R. 1711, as amended; H.R. 2027; H.R. 2167, as amended; H.R. 2441; H.R. 2494; H.R. 2533; H.R. 2655, as amended; H.R. 2695, H.R. 2704; H.R. 2788; H.R. 2878, as amended; and H.R. 3008.(consideration: CR H2482-2520; text: CR H2517)
- **May 18, 2021:** Pursuant to section 5 of H. Res. 403, and the motion offered by Mr. Hoyer, the following bills passed under suspension of the rules: H.R. 144, as amended; H.R. 204, as amended; H.R. 210, as amended; H.R. 240; H.R. 707, as amended; H.R. 711, as amended; H.R. 1157, as amended; H.R. 1447, as amended; H.R. 1510, as amended; H.R. 1711, as amended; H.R. 2027; H.R. 2167, as amended; H.R. 2441; H.R. 2494; H.R. 2533; H.R. 2655, as amended; H.R. 2695, H.R. 2704; H.R. 2788; H.R. 2878, as amended; and H.R. 3008. (consideration: CR H2482-2520; text: CR H2517)
- **May 17, 2021:** Reported by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H. Rept. 117-36.
- **May 17, 2021:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 21.
- **May 17, 2021:** Mr. Takano moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **May 17, 2021:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H2360-2362; text: CR H2360-2361)
- **May 17, 2021:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 2704.
- **May 17, 2021:** 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. (text: CR H2360-2361)
- **May 4, 2021:** Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Discharged.
- **May 4, 2021:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **May 4, 2021:** Ordered to be Reported by the Yeas and Nays: 22 - 6.
- **Apr 28, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.
- **Apr 20, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 20, 2021:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.