

HR 6961

Dignity for MST Survivors Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Mar 7, 2022

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 117-300.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 117-300. (Dec 27, 2022)

Law: 117-300 (Enacted Dec 27, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/6961>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Mrvan, Frank J. [D-IN-1]

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

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Underwood, Lauren [D-IL-14]	D · IL		Mar 8, 2022
Rep. Trone, David J. [D-MD-6]	D · MD		Mar 9, 2022
Rep. Pappas, Chris [D-NH-1]	D · NH		Mar 21, 2022
Rep. Levin, Mike [D-CA-49]	D · CA		Mar 28, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Discharged from	Apr 6, 2022
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Discharged From	Dec 20, 2022

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

This act modifies communications and procedures for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) regarding claims for compensation based on military sexual trauma (MST) experienced by veterans.

The act requires the VA to ensure each member of the BVA is offered annual training on MST and proceedings that concern a claim for compensation based on MST. A proceeding that concerns a claim for compensation based on MST may not be assigned to a member of the BVA (or a panel of members) unless such persons have completed the annual training.

When a notice of disagreement is filed, the BVA must promptly determine whether it is filed for a case that concerns a claim for compensation based on MST and for which the appellant has requested a hearing in the notice.

The VA must audit the language used in letters sent to individuals to explain decisions denying claims for compensation based on MST. Letters must be modified to ensure (1) the use of trauma-informed language, and (2) veterans are not retraumatized through insensitive language.

The VA must establish protocols for VA medical providers and contract medical providers to ensure that the medical providers use trauma-informed practices in conducting examinations in relation to claims for compensation based on MST.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 27, 2022:** Signed by President.
- **Dec 27, 2022:** Became Public Law No: 117-300.
- **Dec 23, 2022:** Presented to President.
- **Dec 20, 2022:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 19, 2022:** Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs discharged by Unanimous Consent.
- **Dec 19, 2022:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **Dec 19, 2022:** Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S7302-7303)
- **May 19, 2022:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
- **May 18, 2022:** Mr. Takano moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **May 18, 2022:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5107-5108)
- **May 18, 2022:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 6961.
- **May 18, 2022:** 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.
- **May 18, 2022:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H5142)
- **May 18, 2022:** 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): 405 - 12 (Roll no. 216).
- **May 18, 2022:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 405 - 12 (Roll no. 216). (text: CR H5107)
- **May 18, 2022:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Apr 6, 2022:** Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Discharged.
- **Apr 6, 2022:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Apr 6, 2022:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended).
- **Mar 28, 2022:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.
- **Mar 7, 2022:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 7, 2022:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.