

## HR 1378

Veterans' Appeals Backlog Improvement Act

**Congress:** 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Armed Forces and National Security

**Introduced:** Mar 7, 2023

**Current Status:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.

**Latest Action:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held. (Apr 19, 2023)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/1378>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Ciscomani, Juan [R-AZ-6]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** AZ • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (12 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Budzinski, Nikki [D-IL-13]	D · IL		Mar 7, 2023
Rep. Kiggans, Jennifer A [R-VA-2]	R · VA		Mar 7, 2023
Rep. McGarvey, Morgan [D-KY-3]	D · KY		Mar 7, 2023
Rep. Miller-Meeks, Mariannette [R-IA-1]	R · IA		Mar 7, 2023
Rep. Cherfilus-McCormick, Sheila [D-FL-20]	D · FL		Mar 8, 2023
Rep. Landsman, Greg [D-OH-1]	D · OH		Jun 14, 2023
Rep. Lawler, Michael [R-NY-17]	R · NY		Jul 27, 2023
Rep. Caraveo, Yadira [D-CO-8]	D · CO		Sep 18, 2023
Rep. Crow, Jason [D-CO-6]	D · CO		Sep 20, 2023
Rep. Neguse, Joe [D-CO-2]	D · CO		Sep 29, 2023
Rep. Slotkin, Elissa [D-MI-7]	D · MI		Dec 13, 2023
Rep. Joyce, David P. [R-OH-14]	R · OH		Dec 19, 2024

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Markup by	Apr 19, 2023

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

## **Veterans' Appeals Backlog Improvement Act**

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish programs that provide employment opportunities within the VA and the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA).

Specifically, the bill requires the VA to establish a competitive internship program to provide high-achieving law students with an opportunity to gain experience with the BVA.

The VA must also establish a nine-year competitive honors pilot program to recruit high-achieving law students, recent law school graduates, and entry-level attorneys for employment. Under the pilot, the VA must (1) provide student loan repayment benefits to participants, (2) enter into participant agreements that outline terms of the program, (3) assign mentors who are outside of the participant's chain of command, and (4) provide participants with at least one assignment within the VA's Office of General Counsel.

The bill also requires the VA to report on improving access to tele-hearings before the BVA (held by picture and voice transmission).

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Apr 19, 2023:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Mar 29, 2023:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **Mar 28, 2023:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.
- **Mar 7, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 7, 2023:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.