

HR 2441

Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Mar 30, 2023

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Apr 14, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/2441>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]

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

Cosponsors (14 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]	D · CA		May 2, 2023
Rep. Cherfilus-McCormick, Sheila [D-FL-20]	D · FL		May 25, 2023
Rep. Kildee, Daniel T. [D-MI-8]	D · MI		Jul 18, 2023
Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-31]	D · CA		Jul 25, 2023
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]	D · OR		Sep 8, 2023
Rep. Frost, Maxwell [D-FL-10]	D · FL		Sep 8, 2023
Rep. Pappas, Chris [D-NH-1]	D · NH		Sep 19, 2023
Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]	D · NH		Oct 6, 2023
Rep. Nickel, Wiley [D-NC-13]	D · NC		Oct 6, 2023
Rep. Ramirez, Delia C. [D-IL-3]	D · IL		Nov 7, 2023
Rep. Hoyle, Val T. [D-OR-4]	D · OR		Jan 10, 2024
Rep. Dingell, Debbie [D-MI-6]	D · MI		Sep 19, 2024
Rep. Tokuda, Jill N. [D-HI-2]	D · HI		Nov 20, 2024
Rep. Mrvan, Frank J. [D-IN-1]	D · IN		Dec 11, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	House	Referred To	Mar 30, 2023
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 14, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 S 1028	Identical bill	Mar 29, 2023: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Summary (as of Mar 30, 2023)

Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act of 2023

This bill modifies and implements policies and procedures related to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care and benefits for veterans who have experienced military sexual trauma (MST), which is generally defined as physical assault of a sexual nature, battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment that occurred while the veteran was serving in the military.

In the case of any veteran who claims that a covered mental health condition (e.g., post-traumatic stress disorder) based on MST was incurred or aggravated by active service, the VA must consider (1) a diagnosis of the condition by a mental health professional, (2) a medically proven link between current symptoms and MST, and (3) credible supporting evidence that MST occurred.

The VA may not deny a veteran's claim of compensation for a covered mental health condition based on MST without first (1) advising the veteran that nonmilitary evidence and behavioral evidence may constitute credible corroborating evidence, and (2) allowing the veteran an opportunity to furnish the corroborating evidence or advise the VA of potential sources of such evidence.

The Veterans Benefits Administration must conduct an annual special focus review on the accuracy of the processing of claims for disability compensation for disabilities relating to MST.

Additionally, the bill (1) expands access to mental health care at VA facilities for survivors of MST, and (2) requires the Government Accountability Office to report on access to such care for MST survivors.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 14, 2023:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Mar 30, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 30, 2023:** Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.