

## S 1245

### Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act of 2025

**Congress:** 119 (2025–2027, Current)

**Chamber:** Senate

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

**Introduced:** Apr 1, 2025

**Current Status:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute

**Latest Action:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably. (Jul 30, 2025)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/1245>

#### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** CT • **Chamber:** Senate

#### Cosponsors (12 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Fetterman, John [D-PA]	D · PA		Apr 1, 2025
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Apr 1, 2025
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Apr 1, 2025
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Apr 1, 2025
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Apr 1, 2025
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Apr 1, 2025
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Apr 1, 2025
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jul 14, 2025
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Sep 29, 2025
Sen. Hickenlooper, John W. [D-CO]	D · CO		Oct 15, 2025
Sen. Ossoff, Jon [D-GA]	D · GA		Oct 27, 2025
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Jan 14, 2026

#### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Markup By	Jul 30, 2025

#### Subjects & Policy Tags

##### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

#### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
119 HR 2576	Identical bill	Apr 9, 2025: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

## **Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act of 2025**

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 corroborating 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 eligibility for MST counseling and treatment to former members of the reserve components regardless of duty status, and (2) requires various outreach by the VA to inform potentially eligible individuals about MST care.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Jul 30, 2025:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
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- **Apr 1, 2025:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 1, 2025:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
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