



H.R. 474 — Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2015 (Wenstrup R-OH)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE: MAY 18, 2015 UNDER A SUSPENSION OF THE RULES WHICH REQUIRES TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR PASSAGE.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: This [bill](#) would provide for a five-year extension of the homeless veterans reintegration program.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

COST: There is no Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score currently available.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: This bill would provide for a five-year extension, through 2020, of the [homeless veterans reintegration program](#). [This program](#) provides services to assist reintegrating homeless veterans into employment. In addition, it would clarify those eligible to participate include: (1) homeless veterans; (2) veterans who are participating in the VA-supported housing program for which rental assistance is provided under the United States Housing Act of 1937; and (3) veterans who are transitioning from being incarcerated.

COMMITTEE ACTION: This bill was introduced by Representative Wenstrup on January 1, 2015, and referred House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. The bill was [marked-up](#) on April 16, 2015, and reported out of the subcommittee by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: No statement of administration policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Clauses 12, 13, 14, and 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution.

H.R. 1038— Ensuring VA Employee Accountability Act (Costello, R-PA)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE: MAY 18, 2015 UNDER A SUSPENSION OF THE RULES WHICH REQUIRES TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR PASSAGE.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: This [bill](#) would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to retain a copy of any reprimand or admonishment received by an employee of the VA in the employee’s permanent record.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?**
No.

COST: There is no Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score currently available.

COMMITTEE ACTION: This bill was introduced by Representative Costello on February 24, 2015, and referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. The bill was [marked-up](#) on April 16, 2015, and reported out of the subcommittee by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: No statement of administration policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

H.R. 1313— Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Relief Act (Mcnerney, D-CA)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE: MAY 18, 2015 UNDER A SUSPENSION OF THE RULES WHICH REQUIRES TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR PASSAGE.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: This [bill](#) would allow for the surviving spouse of a service-disabled veteran—who acquired ownership rights in a small business owned by the diseased veteran—to maintain the status of the small business as one controlled by veterans.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

COST: There is no Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score currently available.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: This bill would allow for the surviving spouse of a 100-percent service-disabled veteran who acquired ownership rights in a small business owned by the diseased veteran to maintain the status of the small business as one controlled by veterans. In the event the veteran died as a result of their service connected disability, the surviving spouse would receive ten years to maintain the status of a small business controlled by veterans. If the veteran’s death was not connected to their disability or the veteran was less than 100 percent disabled, the surviving spouse would receive three years of veteran-controlled status.

A [Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business](#) (SDVOSB) must be at least 51 percent owned by a veteran who is rated as 100 percent disabled according to the Veterans Administration. According to the [sponsor](#) of the bill, “Under current law, when the veteran and small business owner passes away, the surviving family members and business owners are not guaranteed any time to transition away from SDVOSB status, putting the businesses in jeopardy of losing any federal contracts they might have. Last year, there were an estimated 500,000 SDVOSBs in the U.S.”

COMMITTEE ACTION: This bill was introduced by Representative McNerney and referred to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. The bill was [marked-up](#) on April 16, 2015, and reported out of the subcommittee by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: No statement of administration policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

H.R. 1382— Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act, as amended (Rice, D-NY)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE: MAY 18, 2015 UNDER A SUSPENSION OF THE RULES WHICH REQUIRES TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR PASSAGE.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: This [bill](#) would allow the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to give preference in awarding contracts for the procurement of goods and services to those that employ veterans on a full time basis.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

COST: There is no Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score currently available.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: This bill would authorize the secretary to give preference to organizations when awarding contracts based on the percentage of full-time veteran employees. If an organization is found to have misrepresented the veteran status of their employees, the organization would be forbidden from contracting with the VA for at least five years.

COMMITTEE ACTION: This bill was introduced by Representative Rice on March 16, 2015, and referred to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. The bill was [marked-up](#) on April 16, 2015, and reported out, in the nature of the substitute, of the subcommittee by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: No statement of administration policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: There is no constitutional authority statement currently available.

H.R. 91— Veteran's I.D. Card Act (Buchanan, R-FL)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE: MAY 18, 2015 UNDER A SUSPENSION OF THE RULES WHICH REQUIRES TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR PASSAGE.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: This [bill](#) would direct the secretary of Veterans Affairs to allow for the issuance of veteran identification cards to veterans who were discharged under honorable conditions.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?**
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?**
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?**
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?**

COST: There is no Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score currently available.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: This bill would direct the secretary of Veterans Affairs to allow for the issuance of veteran identification cards to veterans who were discharged under honorable conditions. Currently, veteran identification cards are issued to veterans who have either completed the statutory time-in-service requirement for retirement from the armed forces or who have received a medical-related discharge from the armed forces. A veteran who has served a minimum obligated time in service does not receive any means of identifying themselves as a veteran other than their official discharge paperwork.

The veteran identification card would contain a photograph and the name of the veteran and an identification number that is different from their social security number. The secretary would charge a fee to each veteran obtaining a card.

COMMITTEE ACTION: This bill was introduced by Representative Buchanan on January 6, 2015, and referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs where it awaits further action.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: No statement of administration policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: "Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States."

H.R. 1816—Vulnerable Veterans Housing Reform Act of 2015, as amended (Rep. Heck, R-NV)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE: MAY 18, 2015 UNDER A SUSPENSION OF THE RULES, WHICH REQUIRES A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR PASSAGE.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: [H.R. 1816](#) would amend current law to exclude certain payments made by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) from income calculations for housing assistance purposes.

COST: A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates is not available at this time.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: Section 2 would exclude VA benefits and money paid to severely disabled veterans for in-home aid and attendance due to service-related disabilities from the Section 8, public housing rental assistance eligibility, or rent calculations.

Section 3 would increase [current-law limits](#) on awards and bonuses paid to VA employees and lower the ceiling from \$360 million to \$350 million for each Fiscal Year 2016-2020.

COMMITTEE ACTION: This bill was introduced on April 15, 2015, by Rep. Heck and referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: No statement of administration policy is available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: The power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing Powers, and all other powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or officer thereof.

H.R. 1987—Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015 (Hunter, R-CA)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE: [H.R. 1987](#) IS EXPECTED TO BE CONSIDERED ON MAY 18, 2015, UNDER A MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND PASS THE BILL, WHICH REQUIRES A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR PASSAGE.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: This bill would reauthorize the Coast Guard through Fiscal Year (FY) 2017.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: There are no substantive conservative concerns.

- **Expand** the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No
- **Encroach** into State or Local Authority?: No
- **Delegate** Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?: No
- **Contain** Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: No

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: H.R. 1987 would FY 2016 and 2017. This authorization is equal to current levels.

The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure released a detailed section-by-section summary which can be found [here](#). The summary below highlights major provisions of the bill.

Personnel: The legislation would authorize an end-of-year strength of 43,000 active duty military personnel in FY 2016 and 2017.

Authorization Request: The Coast Guard would be required to submit to Congress an authorization request each year, as the Department of Defense currently does.

Senior Leadership: The bill would change the rank of the vice service chief from vice admiral (three star) to admiral (four star). The bill would also reestablish the position of Chief of Staff of the Coast Guard, which was discontinued in 2011. These changes are meant to align the Coast Guard with the other armed services.

Major Acquisitions Plan: The bill would require the Coast Guard to provide Congress with a long-term plan for shipbuilding requirements.

Graduate Education: The bill would authorize the Coast Guard to establish a new graduate education program at a public academic institution for the development of Coast Guard service members and civilians.

Marine Event Safety Zones: The bill would authorize the Coast Guard to recover the costs of providing safety zones around privately held events (such as fireworks displays).

Recreational Vehicle Engine Weights: The bill would require the Coast guard to update its references for recreational vehicle engine weights for floatation tests. The current references have not been updated for more than 20 years.

COST: The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that H.R. 1987 would authorize appropriations of \$17.4 million over the 2016-2020 period and would cost \$16.6 million to implement over the 2016-2020 period.

H.R. 1987 would impose private-sector mandates on sponsors of marine events and manufacturers of small boats, although the cost of those mandates would fall below the threshold established under the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

Merchant Mariner Medical Certifications: The bill would require the Coast Guard to certify local doctors to make physical fitness determinations for merchant mariners. Under current law, potential merchant mariners must be examined by a doctor who submits a form to the Coast Guard. A Coast Guard employee then certifies the medical fitness of the mariner based solely on the form without actually medically reviewing the mariner.

Certificates of Documentation for Recreational Vessels: The bill would require the Coast Guard to develop a Certificate of Documentation for recreational vessels that is effective for five years (as opposed to the current certificate that is only effective for one year).

COMMITTEE ACTION: H.R. 1987 was introduced on April 23, 2015, and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. On [April 30, 2015](#), the Committee marked up and reported the bill by voice vote. The committee report can be found [here](#).

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.”

S. 178—Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (Cornyn, R-TX)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE: [S. 178](#) IS EXPECTED TO BE CONSIDERED ON MAY 18, 2015, UNDER A MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND PASS THE BILL, WHICH REQUIRES A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR PASSAGE.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: This bill would strengthen anti-sex trafficking laws and provide support for victims of sex trafficking.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: This bill would expand the federal government's role in addressing sex trafficking.

- **Expand** the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: Yes, the bill contains provisions that would assist victims of sex trafficking as well as enhanced criminal penalties for sex-trafficking crimes.
- **Encroach** into State or Local Authority?: No
- **Delegate** Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?: Yes, the bill would allow funds deposited in the Domestic Trafficking Victims Fund to be spent by the attorney general without further appropriation by Congress.
- **Contain** Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: No

COST: The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that S. 178 would increase direct spending by \$2 million over the 2015-2025 period and cost about \$1 million in FY 2016 and less than \$500,000 each following year from appropriated funds.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: The bill would impose a \$5,000 fine on those convicted of sex-trafficking which would be deposited in a new Domestic Trafficking Victims Fund. The money deposited in the fund would be available for obligation by the attorney general without further appropriation by Congress to award grants for trafficking victims programs.

The bill would establish a Victim-Centered Child Human Trafficking Deterrence Block Grant program.

The bill would increase compensation and restitution for trafficking victims.

The bill would expand the Department of Justice's authority to intercept communications related to sex trafficking.

The bill would authorize prosecution of those who patronize or solicit trafficking victims as sex traffickers.

The bill would clarify that child pornography producers are human traffickers.

The bill would increase training for law enforcement officers on effective methods for investigating and prosecuting human trafficking and providing mental and physical health services to victims.

The bill would increase federal reporting on statistics of sex trafficking.

The bill would increase education and outreach to trafficking survivors.

The bill would establish a new Child Exploitation Investigations Unit, a Cyber Crimes Center, and a Computer Forensics Unit within the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to investigate child exploitation initiatives

such as child pornography and forced child labor, provide assistance for ICE investigations of cyber-related crimes, and provide support for ICE digital forensics.

The bill would increase military sex offender reporting.

OUTSIDE GROUPS: [Advocacy organizations](#) and [law enforcement organizations](#) supporting the bill.

COMMITTEE ACTION: S. 178 was introduced on January 13, 2015, and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. The Committee marked up and reported the bill on [February 26, 2015](#). [After Senate Democrats filibustered the bill](#) for a month, S. 178 passed the Senate on April 22, 2015, by a [99 – 0](#) vote.

In January, the House passed several anti-sex trafficking bills, including:

- [H.R. 468 - Enhancing Services for Runaway and Homeless Victims for Youth Trafficking Act of 2015](#)
- [H.R. 469 - Strengthening Child Welfare Response to Trafficking Act of 2015](#)
- [H.R. 246 - To improve the response to victims of child sex trafficking](#)
- [H.R. 514 — Human Trafficking Prioritization Act](#)
- [H.R. 515 — International Megan’s Law to Prevent Demand for Child Sex Trafficking](#)
- [H.R. 357 — Human Trafficking Prevention Act](#)
- [H.R. 398 — Trafficking Awareness Training for Health Care Act of](#)
- [H.R. 460 — Human Trafficking Detection Act of 2015](#)
- [H.R. 159 — Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act](#)
- [H.R. 285 — Stop Advertising Victims on Exploitation Act](#)
- [H.R. 181 — Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act](#)
- [H.R. 350 — The Human Trafficking Prevention, Intervention, and Recovery Act](#)

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: A statement of administration policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: A constitutional authority statement is not available.

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