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VETERAN LEGISLATION

28 January 2013

As of 28 JAN of the 431 House and 144 Senate items of legislation introduced in the 113th Congress, the following are of interest to the non-active duty veteran community. A good indication on the likelihood of a bill of being forwarded to the House or Senate for passage and subsequently being signed into law by the President is the number of cosponsors who have signed onto the bill. An alternate way for it to become law is if it is added as an addendum to another bill such as the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and survives the conference committee assigned to iron out the difference between the House and Senate bills. At <http://thomas.loc.gov> you can review a copy of each bill's text, determine its current status and number of cosponsors, the committee it has been assigned to, who your representative is and his/her phone number, mailing address, or email/website to communicate with a message or letter of your own making, and if your legislator is a sponsor or cosponsor of it. To separately determine what bills, amendments your representative has sponsored, cosponsored, or dropped sponsorship on refer to <http://thomas.loc.gov/bss/d111/sponlst.html>. To review a numerical list of all bills introduced refer to <http://thomas.loc.gov/bss/111search.html>.

The Following Color Codes Apply to the Bills Listed Below

1. Bills that are being pushed by various veterans groups for passage include a website highlighted in red which if clicked on will take the reader to a preformatted message for automatic transmission to their legislator requesting he/she support the bill.
2. Bill numbers that have passed either the House or Senate and have been forwarded to the other chamber or the President for action are highlighted in Green.
3. Bills that have passed both chambers of Congress and been signed into law are highlighted in Blue.
4. Bills that the RAO considers to have the highest priority are highlighted in Yellow.
5. Bill numbers that have been incorporated in other bills are highlighted in Gray.
6. Bill numbers and titles in violet (if any) are new additions to this summary.

House Legislation

House Bills

Note: Go to <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php> and enter bill number in the Search block to determine current cosponsor status and last major action taken by the House.

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H.R.32 : **Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act.** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan for military surviving spouses to offset the receipt of veterans dependency and indemnity compensation.

Sponsor: Rep Wilson, Joe [SC-2] (introduced 1/3/2013)

Committees: House Armed Services

Latest Major Action: 1/3/2013 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services.

To support this bill and/or contact your legislators send a message via <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/?bill=62315971>.

H.R.44 : **Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act.** A bill to implement the recommendations of the Guam War Claims Review Commission.

Sponsor: Rep Bordallo, Madeleine Z. [GU] (introduced 1/3/2013)

Committees: House Natural Resources

Latest Major Action: 1/3/2013 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

H.R.110 : **WWII Filipino Service Claims.** A bill to require the Secretary of the Army to determine the validity of the claims of certain Filipinos that they performed military service on behalf of the United States during World War II.

Sponsor: Rep Hanabusa, Colleen W. [HI-1] (introduced 1/3/2013)

Committees: House Armed Services; House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/11/2013 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

H.R.111 : **Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act.** A bill to award a Congressional gold medal, collectively, to the Filipino Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

Sponsor: Rep Hanabusa, Colleen W. [HI-1] (introduced 1/3/2013)

Committees: House Financial Services; House Administration

Latest Major Action: 1/3/2013 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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.

H.R.153 : Veterans Outreach Improvement Act of 2013. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the outreach activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep McIntyre, Mike [NC-7] (introduced 1/4/2013)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/4/2013 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.154 : VA Public Service Vet Medal. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a Department of Veterans Affairs Medal for Distinguished Public Service to honor veterans who make remarkable and distinguished contributions to their communities.

Sponsor: Rep McIntyre, Mike [NC-7] (introduced 1/4/2013)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/11/2013 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

H.R.164 : Disabled Vet Space A Travel. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit veterans who have a service-connected, permanent disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces entitled to such travel.

Sponsor: Rep Bilirakis, Gus M. [FL-12] (introduced 1/4/2013)

Committees: House Armed Services

Latest Major Action: 1/4/2013 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services.

H.R.179 : Franchise Education for Veterans Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow certain veterans to use educational assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs for franchise training.

Sponsor: Rep Griffin, Tim [AR-2] (introduced 1/4/2013)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs; House Armed Services

Latest Major Action: 1/4/2013 Referred to House committee. Status: 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.

H.R.183 : Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on dog training therapy.

Sponsor: Rep Grimm, Michael G. [NY-11] (introduced 1/4/2013)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/4/2013 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.222 : **Frank Buckles World War I Memorial Act.** A bill to amend the World War I Centennial Commission Act to provide for the designation of memorials to the service of members of the United States Armed Forces in World War I, and for other purposes.
Sponsor: Rep Poe, Ted [TX-2] (introduced 1/14/2013)
Committees: House Natural Resources
Latest Major Action: 1/14/2013 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

H.R.241 : **Veterans Timely Access to Health Care Act.** A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish standards of access to care for veterans seeking health care from Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities, and for other purposes.
Sponsor: Rep Ross, Dennis A. [FL-15] (introduced 1/14/2013)
Committees: House Veterans' Affairs
Latest Major Action: 1/14/2013 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.257 : **Veterans Health Equity Act of 2013.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that veterans in each of the 48 contiguous States are able to receive services in at least one full-service hospital of the Veterans Health Administration in the State or receive comparable services provided by contract in the State.
Sponsor: Rep Shea-Porter, Carol [NH-1] (introduced 1/15/2013)
Committees: House Veterans' Affairs
Latest Major Action: 1/22/2013 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

H.R.258 : **Stolen Valor Act of 2013.** A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to fraudulent representations about having received military declarations or medals.
Sponsor: Rep Heck, Joseph J. [NV-3] (introduced 1/15/2013)
Committees: House Judiciary
Latest Major Action: 1/25/2013 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, And Investigations.

H.R.288 : **CHAMPVA Children's Protection Act of 2013.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program.
Sponsor: Rep Michaud, Michael H. [ME-2] (introduced 1/15/2013)
Committees: House Veterans' Affairs
Latest Major Action: 1/15/2013 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.293 : **Army Combat Action Badge Eligibility Expansion.** A bill to expand retroactive eligibility of the Army Combat Action Badge to include members of the Army who participated in combat during which they personally engaged, or were personally engaged by, the enemy at any time on or after December 7, 1941.
Sponsor: Rep Nugent, Richard B. [FL-11] (introduced 1/15/2013)
Committees: House Armed Services

Latest Major Action: 1/15/2013 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services.

H.R.303 : Retired Pay Restoration Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation and to eliminate the phase-in period under current law with respect to such concurrent receipt.

Sponsor: Rep Bilirakis, Gus M. [FL-12] (introduced 1/15/2013)

Committees: House Armed Services; House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/15/2013 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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.

To support this bill and/or contact your legislators send a message via

[http://capwiz.com/dav/issues/alert/?alertid=62354151&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/dav/issues/alert/?alertid=62354151&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.318 : Korean War Wall of Remembrance. To authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance.

Sponsor: Rep Hall, Ralph M. [TX-4] (introduced 1/18/2013)

Committees: House Natural Resources

Latest Major Action: 1/18/2013 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

H.R.324 : First Special Service Force Congressional Gold Medal. To grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II.

Sponsor: Rep Miller, Jeff [FL-1] (introduced 1/18/2013)

Committees: House Financial Services; House Administration

Latest Major Action: 1/18/2013 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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.

H.R.330 : Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial Act. A bill to designate a Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial at the March Field Air Museum in Riverside, California.

Sponsor: Rep Calvert, Ken [CA-42] (introduced 1/22/2013)

Committees: House Natural Resources

Latest Major Action: 1/22/2013 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

H.R.331 : **VA Veteran Enrollment Reporting.** A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit the centralized reporting of veteran enrollment by certain groups, districts, and consortiums of educational institutions.

Sponsor: Rep Calvert, Ken [CA-42] (introduced 1/22/2013)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/22/2013 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.333 : **Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act.** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans' disability compensation, to eliminate the phase-in period for concurrent receipt, to extend eligibility for concurrent receipt to chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep Bishop, Sanford D., Jr. [GA-2] (introduced 1/22/2013)

Committees: House Armed Services; House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/22/2013 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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.

H.R.357 : **GI Bill In-State Tuition.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require courses of education provided by public institutions of higher education that are approved for purposes of the educational assistance programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to charge veterans tuition and fees at the in-State tuition rate.

Sponsor: Rep Miller, Jeff [FL-1] (introduced 1/23/2013)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/23/2013 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.369 : **Tinnitus Service Connection Presumption.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a presumption of service connection for certain veterans with tinnitus or hearing loss.

Sponsor: Rep Benishek, Dan [MI-1] (introduced 1/23/2013)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/23/2013 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.386 : **Low Income Vet assistance.** A bill to provide housing assistance for very low-income veterans.

Sponsor: Rep Green, Al [TX-9] (introduced 1/23/2013)

Committees: House Financial Services; House Ways and Means

Latest Major Action: 1/23/2013 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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.

H.R.411 : **VA Fort McClellan Registry.** A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a registry of certain veterans who were stationed at Fort McClellan, Alabama, and for other purposes.
Sponsor: Rep Tonko, Paul [NY-20] (introduced 1/23/2013)
Committees: House Veterans' Affairs
Latest Major Action: 1/23/2013 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

**** Union Calendar:** A separate calendar in the United States House of Representatives that schedules bills involving money issues. It arose from the requirement in Article One of the United States Constitution that all revenue bills originate in the House of Representatives. To meet that requirement, Rule XIII.

Senate Legislation

Senate Bills

Note: Go to <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php> and enter bill number in the Search block to determine current cosponsor status and last major action taken by the Senate.

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 6. Bill numbers and titles in violet (if any) are new additions to this summary.
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S.6 : Putting Our Veterans Back to Work Act of 2013. A bill to reauthorize the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011, to provide assistance to small businesses owned by veterans, to improve enforcement of employment and reemployment rights of members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes.
Sponsor: Sen Reid, Harry [NV] (introduced 1/22/2013) Cosponsors (23)
Committees: Senate Veterans' Affairs
Latest Major Action: 1/22/2013 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.49 : Vet VAMC Availability. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that veterans in each of the 48 contiguous States are able to receive services in at least one full-service Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in the State or receive comparable services provided by contract in the State, and for other purposes.
Sponsor: Sen Shaheen, Jeanne [NH] (introduced 1/22/2013) Cosponsors (1)
Committees: Senate Veterans' Affairs
Latest Major Action: 1/22/2013 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.59 : DFC National Memorial. A bill to designate a Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial at the March Field Air Museum in Riverside, California.
Sponsor: Sen Boxer, Barbara [CA] (introduced 1/22/2013) Cosponsors (2)
Committees: Senate Energy and Natural Resources
Latest Major Action: 1/22/2013 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S.62 : Homeless Vet Assistance Fund Contributions. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow taxpayers to designate overpayments of tax as contributions and to make additional contributions to the Homeless Veterans Assistance Fund, and for other purposes.
Sponsor: Sen Boxer, Barbara [CA] (introduced 1/22/2013) Cosponsors (6)
Committees: Senate Veterans' Affairs
Latest Major Action: 1/22/2013 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.140 : Vet Work Opportunity Credit. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the work opportunity credit to certain recently discharged veterans, to improve the coordination of veteran job training services between the Department of Labor, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Defense, to require transparency for Executive departments in meeting the Government-wide goals for contracting with small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, and for other purposes.
Sponsor: Sen Baucus, Max [MT] (introduced 1/24/2013) Cosponsors (1)
Committees: Senate Finance
Latest Major Action: 1/24/2013 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Source: <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/LegislativeData.php?n=Browse> 28 Jan 2013 ++]