

VETERAN LEGISLATION

30 January 2009

Of the 785 House and 346 Senate pieces of legislation introduced in the 111th Congress to date by your legislators, the following are of interest to the non-active duty veteran community. A good indication on the likelihood a bill of being forwarded to the House for passage and subsequently being signed into law by the President is the number of cosponsors who have signed onto the bill. Any number of members may cosponsor a bill in the House or Senate. At <http://thomas.loc.gov> you can review a copy of each bill, determine its current status, the committee it has been assigned to, and if your legislator is a sponsor or cosponsor of it. To determine what bills, amendments your representative has sponsored, cosponsored, or dropped sponsorship on refer to <http://thomas.loc.gov/bss/d111/sponlst.html>. The key to increasing cosponsorship is letting our senators know of veterans feelings on issues. You can locate on <http://thomas.loc.gov> 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:

House

H.R.23 : To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish the Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II.

Sponsor: [Rep Filner, Bob](#) [CA-51] (introduced 1/6/2009) [Cosponsors](#) (5)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/6/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.32 : 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 1/6/2009) [Cosponsors](#) (3)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/6/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.65 : To recognize the extraordinary performance of the Armed Forces in achieving the military objectives of the United States in Iraq, to encourage the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe a national day of celebration commemorating military success in Iraq, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Rep Jackson-Lee, Sheila](#) [TX-18] (introduced 1/6/2009) **Cosponsors** (None)

Committees: House Armed Services; House Foreign Affairs; House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/6/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and 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.84](#) : To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish standards of access to care for veterans seeking health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Rep Brown-Waite, Ginny](#) [FL-5] (introduced 1/6/2009) **Cosponsors** (None)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/6/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

[H.R.114](#) : To allow veterans to elect to use, with the approval of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, certain financial educational assistance to establish and operate certain business, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Rep Fortenberry, Jeff](#) [NE-1] (introduced 1/6/2009) **Cosponsors** (None)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/6/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

[H.R.147](#) : To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow taxpayers to designate a portion of their income tax payment to provide assistance to homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Rep Israel, Steve](#) [NY-2] (introduced 1/6/2009) **Cosponsors** (24)

Committees: House Ways and Means; House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/6/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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.174](#) : To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in the southern Colorado region.

Sponsor: [Rep Salazar, John T.](#) [CO-3] (introduced 1/6/2009) **Cosponsors** (5)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs; House Ways and Means

Latest Major Action: 1/6/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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.190](#) : 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 1/6/2009) **Cosponsors** (1)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/6/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

[H.R.210](#) : To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the acquisition of a parcel of land adjacent to Beaufort National Cemetery, Beaufort, South Carolina.

Sponsor: [Rep Wilson, Joe](#) [SC-2] (introduced 1/6/2009) **Cosponsors** (None)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/6/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

[H.R.217](#) : To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to acquire a parcel of land adjacent to Beaufort National Cemetery, Beaufort, South Carolina.

Sponsor: [Rep Wilson, Joe](#) [SC-2] (introduced 1/6/2009) **Cosponsors** (None)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs; House Ways and Means

Latest Major Action: 1/6/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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.228](#) : To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a scholarship program for students seeking a degree or certificate in the areas of visual impairment and orientation and mobility.

Sponsor: [Rep Jackson-Lee, Sheila](#) [TX-18] (introduced 1/7/2009) **Cosponsors** (None)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/7/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

[H.R.292](#) : To improve energy and water efficiencies and conservation throughout the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Rep Buyer, Steve](#) [IN-4] (introduced 1/8/2009) **Cosponsors** (13)

Committees: House Science and Technology; House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/8/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Science and Technology, 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.293](#) : To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Labor to carry out a grant program to provide reintegration services through programs and facilities that emphasize services for homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children.

Sponsor: [Rep Buyer, Steve](#) [IN-4] (introduced 1/8/2009) **Cosponsors** (8)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/8/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

[H.R.294](#): To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the reauthorization of the Department of Veterans Affairs small business loan program, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Rep Buyer, Steve](#) [IN-4] (introduced 1/8/2009) [Cosponsors](#) (11)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/8/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

[H.R.297](#): To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an increase in the amount of subsistence allowance payable by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to veterans participating in vocational rehabilitation programs, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Rep Buyer, Steve](#) [IN-4] (introduced 1/8/2009) [Cosponsors](#) (6)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/8/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

[H.R.303](#): 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-9] (introduced 1/8/2009) [Cosponsors](#) (None)

Committees: House Armed Services; House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/8/2009 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.333](#): 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 Marshall, Jim](#) [GA-8] (introduced 1/8/2009) [Cosponsors](#) (34)

Committees: House Armed Services; House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/8/2009 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.394](#): To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the amount of the Medal of Honor special pension provided under that title by up to \$1,000.

Sponsor: [Rep Brown, Henry E., Jr.](#) [SC-1] (introduced 1/9/2009) [Cosponsors](#) (None)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/9/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

[H.R.402](#) : To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Knoxville, Tennessee, as the "William C. Tallent Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic".

Sponsor: [Rep Duncan, John J., Jr.](#) [TN-2] (introduced 1/9/2009) [Cosponsors](#) (8)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/9/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

[H.R.449](#) : To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the availability of health care provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs by adjusting the income level for certain priority veterans.

Sponsor: [Rep Sestak, Joe](#) [PA-7] (introduced 1/9/2009) **Cosponsors** (None)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/9/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

[H.R.466](#) : To amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit discrimination and acts of reprisal against persons who receive treatment for illnesses, injuries, and disabilities incurred in or aggravated by service in the uniformed services.

Sponsor: [Rep Doggett, Lloyd](#) [TX-25] (introduced 1/13/2009) [Cosponsors](#) (6)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/13/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

[H.R.568](#) : To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the quality of care provided to veterans in Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities, to encourage highly qualified doctors to serve in hard-to-fill positions in such medical facilities, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Rep Costello, Jerry F.](#) [IL-12] (introduced 1/15/2009) [Cosponsors](#) (3)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs; House Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Major Action: 1/15/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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.584](#) : To provide for coverage of hormone replacement therapy for treatment of menopausal symptoms, and for coverage of an alternative therapy for hormone replacement therapy for such symptoms, under the Medicare and Medicaid Programs, group health plans and individual health insurance coverage, and other Federal health insurance programs.

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [CA-9] (introduced 1/15/2009) **Cosponsors** (None)

Committees: House Energy and Commerce; House Ways and Means; House Education and Labor; House Oversight and Government Reform; House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/15/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and Labor, Oversight and Government Reform, and 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.612](#) : To amend section 1922A of title 38, United States Code, to increase the amount of supplemental insurance available for totally disabled veterans.

Sponsor: [Rep Jones, Walter B., Jr.](#) [NC-3] (introduced 1/21/2009) **Cosponsors** (None)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/21/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

[H.R.667](#) : To improve the diagnosis and treatment of traumatic brain injury in members and former members of the Armed Forces, to review and expand telehealth and telemental health programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Rep Salazar, John T.](#) [CO-3] (introduced 1/23/2009) **Cosponsors** (14)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs; House Armed Services

Latest Major Action: 1/23/2009 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.731](#) : To amend title 38, United States Code, to exclude individuals who have been convicted of committing certain sex offenses from receiving certain burial-related benefits and funeral honors which are otherwise available to certain veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and related individuals, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Rep Shadegg, John B.](#) [AZ-3] (introduced 1/27/2009) **Cosponsors** (6)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/27/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

[H.R.746](#) : To provide for economic recovery payments to recipients of Social Security, railroad retirement, and veterans disability benefits.

Sponsor: [Rep Adler, John H.](#) [NJ-3] (introduced 1/28/2009) **Cosponsors** (None)

Committees: House Ways and Means; House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/28/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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.761](#) : To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the eligibility of parents of certain deceased veterans for interment in national cemeteries.

Sponsor: [Rep Frank, Barney](#) [MA-4] (introduced 1/28/2009) **Cosponsors** (None)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/28/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

[H.R.784](#): To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress quarterly reports on vacancies in mental health professional positions in Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities.

Sponsor: [Rep Tsongas, Niki](#) [MA-5] (introduced 1/28/2009) [Cosponsors](#) (1)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/28/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

[H.R.785](#): To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide outreach and training to certain college and university mental health centers relating to the mental health of veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Rep Tsongas, Niki](#) [MA-5] (introduced 1/28/2009) [Cosponsors](#) (1)

Committees: House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/28/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Senate

S.68

Title: 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: Sen Inouye, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 1/6/2009) [Cosponsors](#) (None)

Latest Major Action: 1/6/2009 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

[S.68](#): 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: [Sen Inouye, Daniel K.](#) [HI] (introduced 1/6/2009) [Cosponsors](#) (None)

Committees: Senate Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/6/2009 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

[S.226](#): A bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Havre, Montana, as the Merrill Lundman Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic.

Sponsor: [Sen Tester, Jon](#) [MT] (introduced 1/13/2009) [Cosponsors](#) (1)

Committees: Senate Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/13/2009 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

[S.239](#) : 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: [Sen Shaheen, Jeanne](#) [NH] (introduced 1/14/2009) [Cosponsors](#) (1)

Committees: Senate Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/14/2009 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

[S.246](#) : A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the quality of care provided to veterans in Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities, to encourage highly qualified doctors to serve in hard-to-fill positions in such medical facilities, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Sen Durbin, Richard](#) [IL] (introduced 1/14/2009) [Cosponsors](#) (None)

Committees: Senate Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/14/2009 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

[S.252](#) : A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance the capacity of the Department of Veterans Affairs to recruit and retain nurses and other critical health-care professionals, to improve the provision of health care veterans, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Sen Akaka, Daniel K.](#) [HI] (introduced 1/15/2009) [Cosponsors](#) (3)

Committees: Senate Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/15/2009 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

[S.263](#) : A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the enforcement of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Sen Casey, Robert P., Jr.](#) [PA] (introduced 1/15/2009) [Cosponsors](#) (1)

Committees: Senate Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/15/2009 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

[S.315](#) : 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: [Sen Feingold, Russell D.](#) [WI] (introduced 1/26/2009) [Cosponsors](#) (1)

Committees: Senate Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/26/2009 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

[S.347](#) : A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to distinguish between the severity of a qualifying loss of a dominant hand and a qualifying loss of a non-dominant hand for purposes of traumatic injury protection under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Sen Ensign, John](#) [NV] (introduced 1/29/2009) [Cosponsors](#) (1)

Committees: Senate Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/29/2009 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
