

NATIONAL VETERANS LEGISLATION AS OF 03 June 2021

H.R. 1276

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Public Law No: 117-4 (Introduced 03/24/2021, 54 Cosponsors, neither of our Congressmen)

Strengthening and Amplifying Vaccination Efforts to Locally Immunize All Veterans and Every Spouse Act or the SAVE LIVES Act

This bill authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to furnish a COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) vaccine to covered individuals during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Under the bill, covered individuals are

- veterans who are not eligible to enroll in the VA health care system;
- specified veterans who are eligible for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care abroad;
- beneficiaries who are eligible for care due to a specified disability or death of a veteran;
- family caregivers of veterans who are participating in the VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers;
- caregivers of veterans participating in the VA's Program of General Caregiver Support Services;
- caregivers of veterans participating in the VA's Medical Foster Home Program, Bowel and Bladder Program, Home Based Primary Care Program, or Veteran Directed Care Program; and
- the spouses of veterans.

The VA must prioritize the vaccination of (1) veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system, (2) veterans who fail to enroll but receive hospital care and medical services for specified disabilities in their first 12 months of separation from service, and (3) caregivers accompanying such prioritized veterans.

Under the bill, the VA is authorized to determine the timing for offering a vaccine to the spouse of a veteran.

H.R. 746

Shown Here:

Introduced in House (Introduced 02/03/2021, 14 Cosponsors, Neither of our Congressmen)

Ensuring Survivor Benefits during COVID-19 Act of 2021

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to get a medical opinion to determine if a service-connected disability was the principal or contributory cause of death in situations where a veteran's death certificate identifies COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) as the principal or contributory cause of death, the certificate does not clearly identify any of the veteran's service-connected disabilities as the principal or contributory cause of death, and a claim for dependency and indemnity compensation is filed with respect to the veteran.

S. 444

**Shown Here:
Introduced in Senate (Introduced 02/25/2021, 9 Cosponsors neither of our Senators)**

Advancing Uniform Transportation Opportunities for Veterans Act or the AUTO for Veterans Act

This bill authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide (or assist in providing) an eligible veteran or service member with an additional automobile or other conveyance under the VA automobile allowance and adaptive equipment program. Currently, a veteran or service member with a specified service-connected disability or impairment may not receive more than one automobile or other conveyance under the program.

The bill authorizes the additional benefit for such veterans and service members if 10 years have passed since the person last received such benefit.

H.R. 637

**Shown Here:
Introduced in House (Introduced 02/01/2021, 10 Cosponsors neither of our Congressmen)**

Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2021

This bill addresses the employment and retraining of veterans, specifically during the COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) public health emergency.

The bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to implement a program under which the VA must provide up to 12 months of nontransferable retraining assistance (including a housing stipend) to up to 35,000 eligible veterans for the pursuit of a specified program of education. Under the bill, an eligible veteran is an individual who, among other requirements, is unemployed due to COVID-19. Veterans who receive retraining assistance may only use such assistance to pursue specified programs, including those designed to provide training for high-demand occupations.

The bill requires the Department of Labor to conduct outreach to veterans participating in the program to notify them of employment placement services and facilitate employment placement. Additionally, the VA must enter into a memorandum of understanding with one or more qualified nonprofit organizations to facilitate the employment of veterans participating in the program.

The Government Accountability Office must report on the outcomes and effectiveness of the retraining assistance program.

The program will terminate 21 months after the date of the enactment of this bill.

H.R. 239

**Shown Here:
Introduced in House (Introduced 01/11/2021, 75 Cosponsors, Cicilline only one)**

Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act

This bill prohibits the Department of Veterans Affairs from requiring payment from a veteran for any contraceptive item that is required to be covered by health insurance plans without a cost-sharing requirement.

H.R. 1282

**Shown Here:
Introduced in House (Introduced 02/24/2021, 98 Cosponsors, Cicilline only one) Major Richard Star Act**

This bill provides that combat-disabled uniformed services retirees with fewer than 20 years of creditable service may concurrently receive, without reduction, veterans' disability compensation and retired pay or combat-related special compensation.

Respectfully Submitted,

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