

## 115<sup>th</sup> Congress—Veterans Bills Signed into Law

### 2018

1. ***The Quicker Veterans Benefits Delivery Act of 2017*** (H.R.1725), requiring VA to evaluate an initiative to reduce the need for in-person disability examinations, signed into law March 9, 2018 (PL 115-130).
2. ***The Veterans Care Financial Protection Act of 2017*** (H.R.3122), protecting veterans from fraudulent or predatory scams, signed into law March 9, 2018 (PL 115-131).
3. ***H.R. 3656***, providing VA memorial headstones and markers for veterans whose remains are unavailable, signed into law March 16, 2018 (PL 115-136).
4. ***The State Veterans Home Adult Day Health Care Improvement Act of 2017*** (S.324), allowing qualifying veterans to receive adult-day medical model health care, signed into law March 27, 2018 (PL 115-159).
5. ***H.R.3562***, improving the process for providing certain home adaptations, signed into law June 1, 2018 (PL 115-177).
6. ***The John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks (MISSION) Act*** (S.2372), streamlining and strengthening VA community care programs to ensure veterans receive efficient, timely and quality care, signed into law June 6, 2018 (PL 115-182).
7. ***The Veterans Cemetery Benefit Correction Act*** (H.R.4910), providing equal burial benefits for veterans interred in National Park Service cemeteries, signed into law June 15, 2018 (PL 115-184).
8. ***The VA Senior Executive Accountability (SEA) Act*** (H.R.2772), preventing rogue employees from being reassigned within the VA without the VA secretary's approval, signed into law June 21, 2018 (PL 115-188).
9. ***The Veterans Providing Healthcare Transition Improvement Act*** (S. 899), to provide leave for medical treatment for certain new federal employees who are veterans with service-connected disabilities, signed into law September 7, 2018 (Public Law 115-238).
10. ***Veterans Treatment Court Improvement Act*** (H.R. 2147) requiring VA to hire at least 50 Veterans Justice Outreach Specialists under the Veterans Justice Outreach Program. Each of these specialists must serve as part of a justice team in a veterans treatment court or other veteran-focused court. Signed into law September 17, 2018 (PL 115-240)
11. ***The Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2018*** (S.3479), to ensure veterans continue to have access to critical programs at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), signed into law September 29, 2018 (Public Law 115-251).
12. ***The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2018*** (H.R.4958), to increase veterans' disability benefits based on rising costs of living, signed into law October 10, 2018 (Public Law 115-258).

**13. The Veterans Benefits and Transition Act** (S.2248), honoring the burial of Native American veterans; protecting student veterans through improved transition reforms by forcing schools that receive G.I. Bill benefits to adopt a policy that will not impose a late fee, restrict a student veterans' access to campus facilities, or otherwise punish a student veteran due to a late payment of tuition or fees from the VA; increasing transparency and accountability of VA's electronic health records transition; broadening SCRA protections to include lease terminations by surviving spouses and expanding protections to more types of consumer contracts; requiring VA to report on the possibility of expanding veterans' access to dental care, allowing military spouses to establish the same state of residency as their servicemember for voting and tax purposes and keep that same state of residency through each relocation; and other provisions, signed into law on December 31, 2018 (PL 115-407)

## **2017**

- 1. The Veterans Choice Program Improvement Act** (S.544/H.R. 369), ensuring veterans have access to timely care in their own communities, signed into law on April 19, 2017 (PL 115-26).
- 2. The HIRE Veterans Act** (H.R. 244), requiring the Department of Labor to establish a HIRE Vets Medallion Program to recognize companies for their efforts to employ veterans, signed into law May 5, 2017 (PL 115-31).
- 3. The Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act** (S.1094), holding the VA accountable to our veterans and protecting the rights of whistleblowers, signed into law on June 23, 2017 (PL 115-41).
- 4. The VA Choice and Quality Employment Act of 2017** (S.114), providing funding for the Choice Program and strengthening VA care, signed into law on August 12, 2017 (PL 115-46).
- 5. The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017** (H.R.3218), improving veterans' G.I. Bill education benefits, signed into law August 16, 2017 (PL 115-48).
- 6. The Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017** (H.R.2288), modernizing the woefully outdated benefits claims appeals process at the VA, signed into law on August 23, 2017 (PL 115-55).
- 7. The Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2017** (H.R.3819), reauthorizing more than 20 important veterans' programs, signed into law September 29, 2017 (PL 115-62).
- 8. The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2017** (H.R.1329), increasing veterans' disability benefits based on rising costs of living, signed into law November 2, 2017 (PL 115-75).

- 9. *The VA Prescription Data Accountability Act*** (H.R.1545), allowing the VA to securely share opioid prescription data with states, signed into law November 21, 2017 (PL 115-86).
- 10. *The Veterans Apprenticeship and Labor Opportunity Reform (VALOR) Act*** (H.R.3949), streamlining the process for non-federal veterans' job training programs, signed into law November 21, 2017 (PL 115-89).
- 11. *The Enhancing Veteran Care Act*** (S.1266), authorizing VA to contract with non-profits to investigate VA medical centers, signed into law December 20, 2017 (PL 115-95).