

From: Vietnam Veterans of America - Texas State Council [tscsec@vvatasc.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 2:04 PM
To: 0000 TSC 3Sec
Sub: Veterans Related Bills from 116th US Congress that Became Law

TO All Texas Chapters as per Request of TSC President Kerwin Stone:

FROM: John A Miterko
VVA Texas State Council
Government Affairs Chair
State Legislative Coordinator

In preparation for the 16-17 April 2021 VVA Texas State Council meeting in Beaumont, the following are Veteran related bills from the 116th US Congress that have become Law. Please share with your members.

116th US Congress Veteran Bills that Have Become Law

House: 18 Total

H.R.299 — 116th Congress (2019-2020) Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019

Bill extends the presumption of service-connection for certain diseases associated with herbicide (e.g., Agent Orange) exposure to veterans who served (1) offshore of Vietnam between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, or (2) in or near the Korean Demilitarized Zone between September 1, 1967, and August 31, 1971. Under a presumption of service-connection, specific disabilities or diseases diagnosed in certain veterans are presumed to have been caused by the circumstances of their military service. Health care benefits and disability compensation may then be awarded. The bill extends eligibility for health care, vocational training and rehabilitation, and monetary allowance to children with spina bifida who have at least one veteran parent who may have been exposed to an herbicide agent while serving in Thailand between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975.

Sponsor: Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41] (Introduced 01/08/2019)

Cosponsors: (333) From Texas: 26

Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

Committee Reports: H. Rept. 116-58

Latest Action: 06/25/2019 Became Public Law No: 116-23

H.R.748 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)

CARES Act: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

Sponsor: Rep. Courtney, Joe [D-CT-2] (Introduced 01/24/2019)

Cosponsors: (369)

Committees: House - Ways and Means

Latest Action (modified): 03/27/2020 Became Public Law No: 116-136.

H.R.886 — 116th Congress (2019-2020) Veteran Treatment Court Coordination Act of 2019

Sponsor: Rep. Crist, Charlie [D-FL-13] (Introduced 01/30/2019)

Cosponsors: (135)

Committees: House - Judiciary | Senate - Judiciary

Committee Reports: H. Rept. 116-259

Latest Action: 08/08/2020 Became Public Law No: 116-153.

H.R.1200 — 116th Congress (2019-2020) Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2019. This bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to increase, as of December 1, 2019, the rates of veterans' disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, the clothing

allowance for certain disabled veterans, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children.

Sponsor: Rep. Luria, Elaine G. [D-VA-2] (Introduced 02/13/2019)

Cosponsors: (14)

Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

Committee Reports: H. Rept. 116-68

Latest Action: 09/26/2019 Became Public Law No: 116-58.

H.R.1424 — 116th Congress (2019-2020) Fallen Warrior Battlefield Cross Memorial Act. This bill

provides that the Department of Veterans Affairs authorizes the display of a Fallen Soldier Display in any national cemetery. A Fallen Soldier Display is a memorial monument in honor of deceased members of the Armed Forces.

Sponsor: Rep. Gonzalez, Anthony [R-OH-16] (Introduced 02/28/2019)

Cosponsors: (28)

Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs | Senate - Veterans' Affairs

Latest Action: 01/07/2020 Became Public Law No: 116-106.

H.R.1812 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)Vet Center Eligibility Expansion Act

Sponsor: Rep. Roe, David P. [R-TN-1] (Introduced 03/18/2019)

Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

Committee Reports: H. Rept. 116-75

Latest Action: 10/20/2020 Became Public Law No: 116-176.

H.R.2196 — 116th Congress (2019-2020) To amend title 38, United States Code, to reduce the credit

hour requirement for the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Specifically, an eligible individual must be enrolled in a program that requires at least the standard 120 semester (or 180 quarter) credit hours, instead of the current requirement for more than 128 semester (or 192 quarter) credit hours.

Sponsor: Rep. Barr, Andy [R-KY-6] (Introduced 04/10/2019)

Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs | Senate - Veterans' Affairs

Committee Reports: H. Rept. 116-118

Latest Action: 07/31/2019 Became Public Law No: 116-36.

H.R.2333 — 116th Congress (2019-2020) Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act. This bill

requires the Government Accountability Office to report on the responsibilities, workload, training, and vacancy rates of suicide prevention coordinators at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sponsor: Rep. Brindisi, Anthony [D-NY-22] (Introduced 04/18/2019)

Cosponsors: (10)

Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

Committee Reports: H. Rept. 116-70

Latest Action: 12/20/2019 Became Public Law No: 116-96.

H.R.2372 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)Veterans' Care Quality Transparency Act

Sponsor: Rep. Underwood, Lauren [D-IL-14]

(Introduced 04/25/2019)

Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

Committee Reports: H. Rept. 116-72

Latest Action: 10/20/2020 Became Public Law No: 116-177.

H.R.2385 — 116th Congress (2019-2020) This bill authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

to establish a grant program to conduct cemetery research and produce educational materials for the Veterans Legacy Program. The program provides the public with engagement and educational opportunities regarding veterans interred in national, state, or tribal veterans' cemeteries. Additionally, the bill requires the VA to report on the efficacy of the grant program.

Sponsor: Rep. Lamb, Conor [D-PA-17] (Introduced 04/29/2019)

Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs | Senate - Veterans' Affairs

Committee Reports: H. Rept. 116-179

Latest Action: 01/17/2020 Became Public Law No: 116-107.

H.R.2938 — 116th Congress (2019-2020) HAVEN Act (Honoring Veterans in Extreme

Need) Sponsor: Rep. McBath, Lucy [D-GA-6] (Introduced 05/23/2019)

Cosponsors: (38)

Committees: House - Judiciary

Committee Reports: H. Rept. 116-169

Latest Action: 08/23/2019 Became Public Law No: 116-52.

H.R.3504 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)Ryan Kules and Paul Benne Specially Adaptive Housing

Improvement Act of 2019

Sponsor: Rep. Bilirakis, Gus M. [R-FL-12] (Introduced 06/26/2019)

Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

Committee Reports: H. Rept. 116-164

Latest Action: 08/08/2020 Became Public Law No: 116-154.

H.R.4771 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)VA Tele-Hearing Modernization Act

Sponsor: Rep. Cunningham, Joe [D-SC-1] (Introduced 10/21/2019)

Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs | Senate - Veterans' Affairs

Latest Action: 04/10/2020 Became Public Law No: 116-137.

H.R.4803 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)Citizenship for Children of Military Members and Civil

Servants Act This bill establishes that a foreign-born child of a U.S. citizen member of the Armed Forces or government employee may automatically acquire U.S. citizenship even if the child is not residing in the United States.

Sponsor: Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-10] (Introduced 10/23/2019)

Cosponsors: (13)

Committees: House - Judiciary | Senate - Judiciary

Latest Action: 03/26/2020 Became Public Law No: 116-133.

H.R.4920 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)Department of Veterans Affairs Contracting Preference

Consistency Act of 2020

Sponsor: Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41] (Introduced 10/30/2019)

Cosponsors: (18)

Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs | Senate - Veterans' Affairs

Latest Action: 08/08/2020 Became Public Law No: 116-155.

H.R.6322 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 This bill

addresses education programs and assistance for veterans during the covered period from March 1-December 21, 2020. Specifically, the bill authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to continue paying work-study allowances during emergency periods. The VA is also authorized to continue paying educational assistance and subsistence allowances for a specified amount of time for programs of education that are suspended due to an emergency situation.

Sponsor: Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41] (Introduced 03/23/2020)

Cosponsors: (49)

Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs; Armed Services

Latest Action: 04/28/2020 Became Public Law No: 116-140.

H.R.6395 — 116th Congress (2019-2020) National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021

Sponsor: Rep. Smith, Adam [D-WA-9] (Introduced 03/26/2020)(by request)

Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Armed Services

Committee Reports: H. Rept. 116-442, Part 2, H. Rept. 116-442, H. Rept. 116-617, H. Rept. 116-457

Committee Print: H.Prt. 116-57 57

Latest Action (modified): 01/01/2021 Became Public Law No: 116-283.

On January 1, 2021, H.R. 6395--the FY 2021 NDAA, containing the Tester/Harder Amendment—was passed into law. At long last, Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange who have been diagnosed with Parkinsonism, Bladder cancer, and/or Hypothyroidism will be deemed service-connected and be eligible for healthcare and compensation:

Title XCI—Veterans Affairs Matters, Section 9109 reads as follows: Additional Diseases Associated with Exposure to Certain Herbicide Agents for Which There is a Presumption of Service Connection for Veterans Who Served in the Republic of Vietnam. Section 1116(a) (2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs: (I) Parkinsonism. (J) Bladder cancer. (K) Hypothyroidism.

H.R.7105 — 116th Congress (2019-2020) Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020

This bill addresses the administration of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) programs and benefits for homeless veterans during the COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) public health emergency.

Sponsor: Rep. Levin, Mike [D-CA-49] (Introduced 06/04/2020)

Cosponsors: (10)

Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs; Budget | Senate - Veterans' Affairs

Latest Action: 01/05/2021 Became Public Law No: 116-315.

H.R.8247 — 116th Congress (2019-2020) Veterans COMPACT Act of 2020

To make certain improvements relating to the transition of individuals to services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, suicide prevention for veterans, and care and services for women veterans, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41] (Introduced 09/14/2020)

Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

Latest Action: Senate - 09/24/2020 Received in the Senate. (All Actions)

Tracker: Passed House

Latest Action: 12/05/2020 signed by President; Became Public Law No: 116-214

Senate: 8 Total

S.153 — 116th Congress (2019-2020) Supporting Veterans in STEM Careers Act. This bill addresses the participation of veterans in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields, including by making veterans eligible for certain National Science Foundation (NSF) programs. The bill directs the NSF to (1) encourage veterans to study and pursue careers in STEM and computer science in coordination with other federal agencies that serve veterans, and (2) submit a plan to Congress for enhancing veterans outreach.

Sponsor: Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL] (Introduced 01/16/2019)

Cosponsors: (12)

Committees: Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation | House - Science, Space, and Technology; Veterans' Affairs

Committee Reports: S. Rept. 116-164

Latest Action: 02/11/2020 Became Public Law No: 116-115.

S.693 — 116th Congress (2019-2020) National POW/MIA Flag Act. The bill changes the days on which the POW/MIA flag is required to be displayed at specified locations to all days on which the U.S. flag is displayed. (Current law requires the POW/MIA flag to be displayed only on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day, and Veterans Day.)The new Law requires that POW/MIA flags be displayed below the US flag at Federal sites around the country to include: White House, Capitol Building, World War II Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, National Cemeteries, State Secretary offices, VA Secretary offices, Selective Service System Director's office, Military installations, VA Medical Centers, Post Offices.

Sponsor: Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA] (Introduced 03/07/2019)

Cosponsors: (7)

Committees: Senate - Judiciary | House - Judiciary

Latest Action: 11/07/2019 Became Public Law No: 116-67.

S.760 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)Support for Veterans in Effective Apprenticeships Act of 2019 This bill requires the Department of Labor to revise its registered apprenticeship programs to include additional program requirements for increasing the access of veterans and their survivors or dependents to such programs.

Sponsor: Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI] (Introduced 03/12/2019)

Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Latest Action: 03/26/2020 Became Public Law No: 116-134.

S.785 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019

This bill makes updates related to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) transition assistance, mental health care, care for women veterans, and telehealth care.

Sponsor: Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT] (Introduced 03/13/2019)

Cosponsors: (53)

Committees: Senate - Veterans' Affairs

Latest Action: 10/17/2020 Became Public Law No: 116-171.

S.1749 — 116th Congress (2019-2020) Protecting Affordable Mortgages for Veterans Act of 2019

This bill revises loan seasoning requirements related to a refinanced Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) housing loan. Under current law, the VA is prohibited from guaranteeing a refinanced home loan until the date that is the later of (1) the date on which the sixth monthly payment is made, or (2) the date that is 210 days after the first payment is made. This bill modifies this date to (1) when the borrower has made six consecutive monthly payments, or (2) 210 days after the first payment is due.

Sponsor: Sen. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ] (Introduced 06/05/2019)

Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Financial Services; Veterans' Affairs

Latest Action: 07/25/2019 Became Public Law No: 116-33.

S.3084 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the limitation on pay for certain high-level employees and officers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sponsor: Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS] (Introduced 12/18/2019)

Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Veterans' Affairs | House - Veterans' Affairs

Latest Action: 07/02/2020 Became Public Law No: 116-146.

S.3503 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to treat certain programs of education converted to distance learning by reason of emergencies and health-related situations in the same manner as programs of education pursued at educational institutions, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS] (Introduced 03/16/2020)

Cosponsors: (30)

Latest Action: 03/21/2020 Became Public Law No: 116-128.

S.3637 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to extend lease protections for servicemembers under stop movement orders in response to a local, national, or global emergency, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT] (Introduced 05/06/2020)

Cosponsors: (16)

Committees: Senate - Veterans' Affairs

Latest Action: 08/14/2020 Signed by President. Became Public Law 116-158.

-----END OF JOHN MITERKO's REPORT-----

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