



**Legislative & Regulatory  
Updates Newsletter  
December 2023**

Hello Everyone, and welcome to the December 2023 edition of our Legislative, Regulatory, and Governmental Affairs newsletter.

### New Rules

**Delayed Final Rule – Special Transportation Payments.** Payments to air ambulance services will NOT be decreased this year. The new effective date for this change is February 16, 2025. Efforts are underway in Congress to prohibit decreases in compensation for special transportation altogether.

**Final Rule – VR&E Repayment of Supplies.** This rule went into effect on December 5 and removes the regulatory authority of the VA to require repayment for books, supplies, or equipment under any circumstance where a veteran fails to complete a course of vocational rehabilitation.

**Final Rule - Bilateral Factor.** This rule went into effect on December 27 and fixes the issue with bilateral factor calculations for disability claims decisions.

**Final Rule – Active Service Pay.** This rule goes into effect on January 11 and allows the VA to adjust disability payments as close in time to the resumption of active duty service as possible to minimize overpayments. The rule also allows the resumption of payments based on information received from the DoD.

**Proposed Rule - Fee Reasonableness Reviews; Effect of Loss of Accreditation on Direct Payment.** This proposed rule addresses the VA's process for reviewing, determining, and granting fees for claims representation and addresses what happens to direct payments when an agent or attorney loses their VA accreditation. [Comments](#) may be submitted on or before 20 FEB 2024.

### Notices and Meetings

**18 JAN - Cooperative Studies Scientific Evaluation Committee meeting.** [Via Zoom](#) and open to the public from 1:00 to 1:30 pm EST, this committee provides advice on cooperative studies and multi-site research activity and will provide a program status update.

**31 JAN to 01 FEB - Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board (West LA).** Two sessions will be open to the public and may be accessed via WebEx. Details on comment submission and attendance are available [here](#).

### Up for Consideration in the Senate

**H.R. 815** RELIEVE Act

### Up for Consideration in the House

**H.R. 5938** Veterans Exam Expansion Act

**H.R. 5914** To improve the processes to approve programs of education for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs

**H.R. 5890** Review Every Veterans Claim Act

**H.R. 5785** To modify the requirements of the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship.

**H.R. 4190** Restoring Benefits to Defrauded Veterans Act

**H.R. 4016** Veteran Fraud Reimbursement Act

**H.R. 3790** Justice for ALS Veterans Act

**H.R. 3738** To establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration

**H.R. 3722** Daniel J. Harvey, Jr. and Adam Lambert Improving Servicemember Transition to Reduce Veteran Suicide Act

**H.R. 1753** To ensure that certain members of the Armed Forces who served in female cultural support teams receive proper credit for such service.

**H.R. 522** Deliver for Veterans Act  
**Received in the Senate**

**H.R. 542** Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act

### Referred to a Senate SVAC Subcommittee

**H.R. 3848** Housing Our Military Veterans Effectively (HOME) Act

H.R. 6656 Stuck On Hold Act

**H.R. 3581** COPE Act

H.R. 6744 No VA Resources for Illegal Aliens Act

**Referred to an HVAC Subcommittee**

**H.R. 6507** Mark Our Place Act

H.R. 6800 To codify the requirements for appointment, qualifications, and pay for therapeutic medical physicists of the Department of Veterans Affairs

**H.R. 6470** Restore Honor to Service Members Act

**H.R. 6381** Veterans Visa and Protection Act

H.R. 6873 To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to include information relating to the rate of suicide among covered Reserves in each National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report of the Office Mental Health and Suicide Prevention of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**H.R. 6380** Wings for Veterans Act

**H.R. 6373** Veterans STAND Act

**H.R. 6353** Veterans HOPE Act

**H.R. 6337** Saving Vet Halls Act

H.R. 6874 To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to implement a system or process to actively monitor the veteran self-service and data transmission functions of the main internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs for certain adverse events

**Referred to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee**

S. 3452 To determine the eligibility or entitlement of a member or former member of the Armed Forces described in subsection (a) to a benefit under a law administered by the Secretary solely based on alternative sources of evidence when the military service records or medical treatment records of the member or former member are incomplete because of damage or loss of records after being in the possession of the Federal Government

S. 3466 VA Medical Center Security Report Act

S. 3490 No VA Resources for Illegal Aliens Act

S. 3526 To require a lactation space in each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 3546 To require a study on the quality of care difference between mental health and addiction therapy care provided by health care providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs compared to non-Department providers

**Referred to the House Veterans Affairs Committee**

H.R. 6551 HEAL Act