



H.R. 3681 – Veterans Benefits Awareness Act of 2007

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 3681 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative John Boozman (R-AR) on September 27, 2007. The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs ordered the bill to be reported as amended, by voice vote on April 30, 2008.

H.R. 3681 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on May 20, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 3681 would allow the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs to purchase national advertising spots to promote the availability of VA benefits.

BACKGROUND

The Department of Veterans Affairs provides a variety of benefits to veterans and their dependents. There are currently 25 million veterans living in the United States. Educating veterans about the range of benefits and services available to them as well as how to receive these benefits is critical.

While agencies are prohibited from using funds for "publicity or propaganda," television and radio advertising can be an important and legitimate use of agency funds. The Department of Defense utilizes advertising very effectively for recruitment and outreach. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the VA rarely uses advertising in the national media even though it currently has the authority.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office "estimates that implementing H.R. 3681 would have no effect on the federal budget." ([CBO Estimate, 4/30/2008](#))

STAFF CONTACT

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