



## H.R. 6625 - Veteran Voting Support Act

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6625 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 Robert Brady (D-PA) on July 29, 2008. The Committee on House Administration ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by voice vote on July 30, 2008.

H.R. 6625 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 16, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 6625 allows the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to designate VA facilities as voter registration agencies. These facilities must provide information about and furnish absentee ballots, and work with local election officials to ensure proper delivery of absentee ballots.

This legislation permits nonpartisan organizations to provide voter registration information and assistance at VA facilities. In addition, the Secretary must permit local election officials, whether elected or appointed, to provide voting information to veterans at VA facilities.

The Secretary must submit an annual report to Congress on compliance with this Act.

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### BACKGROUND

In May 2008, the Department of Veterans Affairs released a directive stating that voter registration drives would not be permitted in VA facilities because the Hatch Act requires that facility operations not be disrupted. Last week, however, the Department announced that it would permit nonpartisan organizations, as well as state and local election officials, to assist in voter registration at VA facilities.

The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 requires States to offer voter registration opportunities at all offices that provide public assistance, services to the disabled and at all motor vehicle offices. The Act also allows federal agencies to provide voter registration opportunities. This legislation is intended to include VA facilities under this Act.

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not produced a cost estimate for H.R. 6625 as of September 15, 2008.

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at 6-2302.