



**H.R. 2292 - To prohibit the payment of bonuses to certain officers of the Department of Veterans Affairs unless fewer than 100,000 disability compensation claims are pending before the Department**

**Floor Situation**

H.R. 2292 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 Hall (D-NY) on May 14, 2007. The bill has not been considered by any committee in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.

H.R. 2292 is expected to be considered on the floor on May 15, 2007.

**Summary**

H.R. 2292:

- Prohibits Senate-confirmed and certain senior politically appointed officials at the Department of Veterans Affairs from receiving certain performance bonuses unless there are “fewer than 100,000 claims” for service connected disability or death compensation.

*\*Note: Senate-confirmed officials and many of the senior political appointees covered by this legislation already barred from receiving these performance bonuses under current law (5 U.S.C. 4509).*

- Broadens the definition of “senior politically appointed officer” for the purposes of this legislation to include Deputy Under Secretaries at the Department of Veterans Affairs that are not currently considered political appointees.

*\*Note: Republicans at the Committee of Veterans Affairs have asserted that the inclusion of Deputy Undersecretaries at the Department of Veterans Affairs targets two individuals at the Department who are not currently classified as political appointees.*

- Requires the Comptroller General to issue a report to Congress for any fiscal quarter of FY2007 where the number of disability compensation claims rejected by the Department of Veterans Affairs is greater than 10 percent higher than the number of claims that were denied during FY2006.

**Background**

Disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs is a monthly cash benefit program for veterans currently impaired from past service-connected activities. Veterans who qualify for compensation are awarded benefits relative to the severity of their disability. Currently there is a backlog of 638,414 unprocessed disability claims at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, there are approximately 25 million veterans living in the United States, 75% of which served during a war or an official period of hostility. Approximately 25% of the nation's population, about 70 million people, are potentially eligible for VA benefits and services because they are veterans, family members, or survivors of veterans.

**Cost**

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not scored this legislation.

**Staff Contact**

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