



H.R. 67 - Veterans Outreach Improvement Act of 2007

Floor Situation

H.R. 67, as amended, is being considered on the floor by suspending the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Mike McIntyre (D-NC) on January 4, 2007. The bill was ordered to be reported, amended, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, by voice vote, on May 15, 2007.

H.R. 67 is expected to be considered on May 23, 2007.

Summary

H.R. 67, as amended, directs the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs ("the Secretary") to create and maintain procedures for ensuring the effective coordination of the outreach activities of the Department between and among the following:

- The Office of the Secretary;
- The Office of Public Affairs;
- The Veterans Health Administration;
- The Veterans Benefits Administration; and,
- The National Cemetery Administration.

The bill requires the Secretary to keep the States informed on programs within their respective jurisdiction that offer a high probability of improving outreach and assistance to veterans, and to the spouses, children, and parents of veterans, to help with any veterans' and veterans-related benefits and programs they may be eligible for.

The Secretary may authorize grants to States to use funds to train State and local government employees who provide (or when trained will provide) veterans outreach services in order for those employees to obtain accreditation in accordance with procedures approved by the Secretary and, for employees so accredited, for purposes of continuing education.

The bill authorizes \$25 million for each of fiscal years 2007, 2008, and 2009 in order to carry out the provisions of this bill.

Cost

“CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$8 million in 2008 and \$75 million over the 2008-2012 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts.” *Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate*

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