

Veteran Bills Passed By The House

Legislative Committee Members –

Because of all your calls and emails last week, VFW–supported veterans bills all cleared the House and are now on their way to the Senate – we will let you know when we are alerted to any action in the Senate. Thanks again for all that you do for the VFW and America’s veterans!

Teresa Morris, VFW National Legislative Service

Vet Bills Clear House: The House cleared several VFW-supported bills. VFW advocates were called on to urge their members to pass the bills as they contain provisions designed to enhance job training programs, improve claims processing and help protect the personal safety and well-being of our veterans using VA medical facilities. The bills now move to the Senate for action. They include:

- **HR 2433** The Veterans Opportunity to Work Act would extend eligibility for the Montgomery GI bill, offer job-training programs for transitioning service members, enhance work-leave protections under USERRA and provide for retraining grants for homeless veterans.
- **HR 2074** requires VA to report and track sexual assaults at its medical facilities and train employees on security issues relating to such assaults.
- **HR 2349** as amended would require the VA to carry out a pilot program to assess the skills and training provided to VBA claims processors. It also would allow those found to be “mentally incapacitated, deemed mentally incompetent or experiencing an extended loss of consciousness” to purchase or transport firearms, unless a judicial authority determines the people are a danger to themselves or others.
- **HR 1025**, provides honorary veteran status to individuals who served at least 20 years in the reserves, are younger than 60 and were never called to active duty.

To read what we said about the bills, visit our blog at www.vfwonthehill.org

For the House VA Committee press release click here: <http://veterans.house.gov/press-release/veterans-legislation-passes-house-representatives-%E2%80%93-vow-act-heads-senate>

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