

FIGHTING FOR FLORIDA'S VETERANS

SENATOR RICK SCOTT'S LEGISLATIVE ACTION UPDATE

FIGHTING FOR AMERICAN HEROES

Veterans Accessibility Act: This bill ensures that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is in full compliance with federal disability laws and provides guidance on ways to make programs and facilities more accessible for veterans and people with disabilities. It establishes a 15-person Advisory Committee on Equal Access, which would consist of veterans with disabilities, disability experts, and representatives of advocacy organizations.

Major Richard Star Act: This bill makes a critical fix to allow combat-injured veterans who retired with less than 20 years of service to receive both Department of Defense (DoD) retirement pay and VA disability compensation, full concurrent receipt, that they have rightfully earned through their service to our country. It honors the legacy of its namesake, Major Richard A. Star, a decorated war veteran forced to medically retire due to his combat-related injuries.

Improving SCRA Benefit Utilization Act: This bill requires that current financial literacy programs include education on consumer financial protections and mandates that servicemembers be informed of benefits when they enter service and when they are called to active duty.

Preserving Access to Patient Reimbursement (PAPR) Act: This bill ensures our nation's veterans continue to have access to a paper-based system for reimbursement of their travel expenses to and from medical appointments.

Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act: This bill prevents veterans from losing their Second Amendment right to purchase or own firearms when they receive help managing their Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits.

Restore VA Accountability Act: This bill strengthens the Department of Veterans Affairs' authority to hold poor-performing employees accountable.

SCHEDULES for Veterans Act: This bill requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish a comprehensive standard for timing between referrals and appointments for care at VA facilities and to submit a report with respect to that standard.

Veterans Opportunity Act of 2025: This bill streamlines VA programs that help veterans achieve economic success after serving in the U.S. military by establishing an Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition. The Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration would reorganize existing VA employees and programs, not expand the size or scope of VA. It would manage employment, vocational rehabilitation, educational assistance, home loans, transition, and other economic opportunity programs formerly housed in the Veterans Benefits Administration.

Veterans Education and Technical Skills Opportunity Act of 2025: This bill extends educational benefits in the Post-9/11 GI Bill to include partially online (or hybrid) versions of skilled trade training programs.

Veterans Homecare Choice Act of 2025: This bill includes any nurse registry as an eligible health care provider under the Veterans Community Care Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Under the bill, a nurse registry is a person who satisfies applicable state licensure requirements and procures, or attempts to procure, contracts or agreements on behalf of registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, certified nursing assistants, home health aides, companions, or homemakers under which such individuals may furnish health care-related or assistive services and receive compensation.

Ensuring Continuity in Veterans Health Act: This bill requires the consideration of continuity of care when determining whether care through the Veterans Community Care Program is in the best medical interest of a veteran.

Protecting Regular Order for Veterans Act of 2025: This bill institutes a three-year requirement for the VA to provide quarterly, in-person budget reports to Congress to encourage greater oversight and financial accountability and withholds bonuses for senior VA and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) personnel if there are future financial shortfalls.

Purple Heart Veterans Education Act of 2025: This bill authorizes certain Purple Heart recipients to elect to transfer to one or more eligible dependents (e.g., a spouse or child) unused portions of such recipients' entitlement to Post-9/11 GI Bill educational assistance. This authority specifically applies to veterans who are awarded the Purple Heart for service in the Armed Forces occurring on or after September 11, 2001, and who have been discharged or released from active service.

Preventing Crimes Against Veterans Act: This bill establishes a new federal criminal offense for knowingly executing, or attempting to execute, a scheme to defraud an individual of veterans' benefits, or in connection with obtaining veteran's benefits for an individual.

Sen. Rick Scott Announces Salary Donation to Navy SEAL Foundation: On January 17, 2025, Senator Rick Scott and Mrs. Ann Scott announced they will donate a portion of his Senate salary to the Navy SEAL Foundation, which provides critical support for the warriors, veterans and families of Naval Special Warfare.

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