

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 1344, With an Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1344

To amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to provide expedited air passenger screening to severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 21, 2013

Ms. GABBARD (for herself, Mr. JOYCE, and Mr. RICHMOND) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to provide expedited air passenger screening to severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Helping Heroes Fly
3 Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. OPERATIONS CENTER PROGRAM FOR SEVERELY IN-**
5 **JURED OR DISABLED MEMBERS OF THE**
6 **ARMED FORCES AND SEVERELY INJURED OR**
7 **DISABLED VETERANS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 449 of
9 title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
10 end the following new section:

11 **“§ 44927. Expedited screening for severely injured or**
12 **disabled members of the Armed Forces**
13 **and severely injured or disabled veterans**

14 “(a) PASSENGER SCREENING.—The Assistant Sec-
15 retary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the
16 Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and organizations that ad-
17 vocate on behalf of members of the Armed Forces and vet-
18 erans, including organizations that advocate on behalf of
19 severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces
20 and severely injured or disabled veterans, shall develop
21 and implement a process to facilitate the ease of travel
22 and to the extent possible provide expedited passenger
23 screening services for severely injured or disabled mem-
24 bers of the Armed Forces, severely injured or disabled vet-
25 erans, and their accompanying family members or non-
26 medical attendants. Such process shall be designed to pro-

1 tect the privacy of the individual being screened to the
2 maximum extent practicable.

3 “(b) OPERATIONS CENTER.—As part of the process
4 required under subsection (a), the Assistant Secretary
5 shall maintain an operations center to provide support and
6 facilitate the movement of severely injured or disabled
7 members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or dis-
8 abled veterans through screening prior to boarding a pas-
9 senger aircraft operated by an air carrier or foreign air
10 carrier in air transportation or intrastate air transpor-
11 tation. Such operations center shall be operational at all
12 times.

13 “(c) PROTOCOLS.—The Assistant Secretary shall—

14 “(1) establish and publish protocols, in con-
15 sultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Sec-
16 retary of Veterans Affairs, and organizations that
17 advocate on behalf of members of the Armed Forces
18 and veterans, including organizations that advocate
19 on behalf of severely injured or disabled members of
20 the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled
21 veterans, under which a severely injured or disabled
22 member of the Armed Forces or severely injured or
23 disabled veteran, or the family member or other rep-
24 resentative of such a member or veteran, may con-
25 tact the operations center maintained under sub-

1 section (b) and request expedited screening services
2 described in subsection (a) for the member or vet-
3 eran; and

4 “(2) upon receipt of such a request, require
5 such operations center to notify the appropriate
6 Federal security director of the request to facilitate
7 the expedited passenger screening services described
8 in subsection (a) for the member or veteran.

9 “(d) TRAINING.—The Assistant Secretary shall inte-
10 grate training on the protocols established under sub-
11 section (c) into the training provided to all employees who
12 will provide the screening services described in subsection
13 (a).

14 “(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
15 tion affects the authority of the Assistant Secretary to re-
16 quire additional screening of a severely injured or disabled
17 member of the Armed Forces, a severely injured or dis-
18 abled veteran, or their accompanying family members or
19 nonmedical attendants, if intelligence, law enforcement, or
20 other information indicates that additional screening is
21 necessary.

22 “(f) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
23 of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter,
24 the Assistant Secretary shall submit to Congress a report

1 on the implementation of this section. Each such report
2 shall include each of the following:

3 “(1) Information on the training provided
4 under subsection (d).

5 “(2) Information on the consultations between
6 the Assistant Secretary and organizations that advo-
7 cate on behalf of members of the Armed Forces and
8 veterans as described in subsection (a).

9 “(3) The number of people who accessed the
10 operations center during the period covered by the
11 report.

12 “(4) Such other information as the Assistant
13 Secretary determines is appropriate.”.

14 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
15 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
16 after the item relating to section 44926 the following new
17 item:

“44927. Expedited screening for severely injured or disabled members of the
Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans.”.