



H.R. 91— Veteran’s I.D. Card Act (Buchanan, R-FL)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE: JULY 7, 2015 UNDER A SUSPENSION OF THE RULES WHICH REQUIRES TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR PASSAGE.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: This [bill](#) would direct the secretary of Veterans Affairs to allow the issuance of veteran identification cards to veterans.

COST: There is no Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score currently available.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: There are no substantive conservative concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: H.R. 91 [originally](#) passed the House on May 18, 2015, by a vote of [402-0](#). On June 22, 2015, the bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent with an amendment. The Senate version of this bill removed the definition of a “covered veteran” and the qualification to be discharged from the armed forces under honorable conditions.

This bill would direct the secretary of Veterans Affairs to allow for the issuance of veteran identification cards to veterans. Currently, veteran identification cards are issued to veterans who have either completed the statutory time-in-service requirement for retirement from the armed forces or who have received a medical-related discharge from the Armed Forces. A veteran who has served a minimum obligated time in service does not receive any means of identifying themselves as a veteran other than their official discharge paperwork.

The veteran identification card would contain a photograph and the name of the veteran and an identification number that is different from their social security number. The secretary would charge a fee to each veteran obtaining a card.

COMMITTEE ACTION: This bill was introduced by Representative Buchanan on January 6, 2015, and referred to the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs where it awaits further action. This bill passed the House on May 19, 2015, and the Senate, with an amendment, on June 22, 2015.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: No statement of administration policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: “Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.”

H.R. 1531— Land Management Workforce Flexibility Act (Connolly, D-VA)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE: JULY 7, 2015 UNDER A SUSPENSION OF THE RULES WHICH REQUIRES TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR PASSAGE.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: [H.R. 1531](#) would allow temporary employees in land management agencies to compete for vacant permanent positions under internal merit promotion procedures.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: There are no substantive conservative concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

COST: The [Congressional Budget Office](#) (CBO) estimates that implementing the legislation would have no significant effect on the federal budget.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: This bill would allow temporary seasonal workers employed by land management agencies at: (1) the Forest Service; (2) the Bureau of Land Management; (3) the National Park Service; (4) the Fish and Wildlife Service; (5) the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and (6) the Bureau of Reclamation to compete for vacant permanent positions under internal merit promotion procedures. According to the [committee report](#), this bill would increase the pool of eligible individuals able to compete for permanent federal positions, while not changing the total number of federal jobs available.

Eligible temporary employees would be required to have served under one or more time-limited appointments for a period totaling more than 24 months without a break of two or more years, and had performed at an acceptable performance level.

COMMITTEE ACTION: This bill was introduced by Representative Connolly on March 23, 2015, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. On March 25, 2014, the committee held a mark-up to consider H.R. 1531. The bill was ordered favorably reported, without amendment, by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: No statement of administration policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: “Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, of the Constitution of the United States.”

H.R. 907—United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, as amended (Rep. Ros-Lehtinen, R-FL)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE: SCHEDULED FOR CONSIDERATION ON JULY 7, 2015, UNDER A SUSPENSION OF THE RULES WHICH REQUIRES TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR PASSAGE.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: [H.R. 907](#) would authorize the Department of State to increase assistance and military cooperation with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: There are no major substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: H.R. 907 would issue a statement of policy that the United States should support Jordan in its response to the Syrian refugee crisis, provide necessary assistance to alleviate the domestic burden to provide basic needs for the assimilated Syrian refugees, cooperate with Jordan to combat the terrorist threat from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) or other terrorist organizations, and help secure the border between Jordan and its neighbors Syria and Iraq.

COST: The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 907 would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2016-2020 period, assuming the availability of appropriated amounts. H.R. 907 would not affect direct spending or revenues, and pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

The bill would additionally express a sense of Congress that certification letters of offers to sell defense articles, services, and equipment should be expedited. For a three-year period beginning on the bill's enactment, H.R. 907 would allow the president to expedite military sales to Jordan and to waive or reduce certain surcharges on military sales from Department of Defense (DOD) stocks. The Secretary of State would also be authorized to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Jordan to increase economic support funds, military cooperation, including joint military exercises, personnel exchanges, and support for international peacekeeping missions, and enhanced strategic dialogue.

According to the findings of the bill, as of January 22, 2015, the United States Government has provided \$3,046,343,000 in assistance to the Syria humanitarian response, of which nearly \$467,000,000 has been to Jordan. Due to the ongoing crisis in Syria, Jordan has become a major refuge for Syrians fleeing conflict. According to the [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees](#) (UNHCR), there are 621,937 registered Syrian refugees in Jordan as of January 2015. On February 3, 2015, the United States and Jordan signed a new Memorandum of Understanding stating the intention to increase United States assistance to the Government of Jordan from \$660,000,000 to \$1,000,000,000 per year from 2015 through 2017. Reports from the Congressional Research Service on U.S.-Jordan relations and the Syrian humanitarian response can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION: This bill was introduced on February 12, 2015, and was referred to the House Committee Foreign Affairs. On April 23, 2015, the bill was ordered to be reported in the nature of a substitute and amended by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: No statement of administration policy is available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

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