



THE VETERANS EXPEDITED TSA SCREENING (VETS) SAFE TRAVEL ACT

S. 1881/H.R. 3356

WHY IS THE BILL NECESSARY?

Traveling through airport security with prosthetics, wheelchairs, or other mobility aids presents a challenge. The Veterans Expedited TSA Screening Safe Travel Act will provide many severely injured and disabled veterans a more dignified experience when passing through security checkpoints at our nation's airports.

WHAT DOES THE BILL DO?

This legislation would provide expedited security screening under Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Pre✓® to certain severely disabled veterans who are amputees, paralyzed, blind, or require an assistive device to aid mobility. Under this legislation, the Department of Veteran Affairs would certify that a Veteran is severely injured and therefore eligible to apply for TSA Pre✓® free of charge. This benefit would bring parity with what is already offered to Active Duty, Reserves, and National Guard Service Members at no cost.

HOW WILL THIS IMPACT THE AIRPORT SECURITY EXPERIENCE?

Passengers will experience less congestion at security checkpoints due to the secondary screening process typical for this veteran population, lessening wait times.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The projected eligibility group is 300,000 veterans. There are approximately 70,000 amputee veterans, 100,000 paralyzed, and 30,000 blind veterans in the United States currently.

WHAT FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS/ AGENCIES WILL BE IMPACTED?

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

In order to validate a veteran's eligibility, VA will determine whether a veteran is enrolled in the VA's health care system. For those not enrolled, this program can help reconnect the veteran to VA in order to access the quality care they have earned.

Transportation Security Administration (TSA)

TSA will be positively impacted in multiple ways.

- Increases the number of fully vetted passengers.
- Allows TSA agents to focus on non-vetted passengers.
- Increases airport security.