

Veterans Legislation & Protections — Congressional Briefing (Updated early 2026)

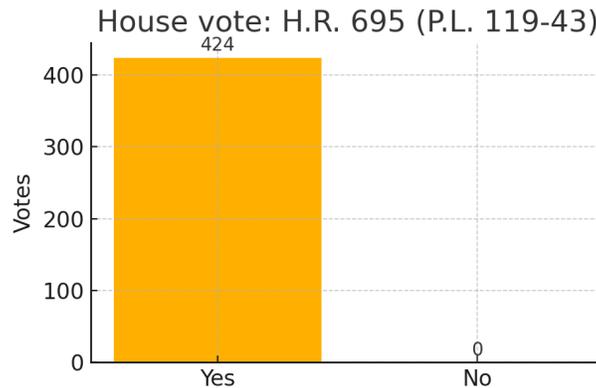
Scope: Selected Public Laws and notable actions referenced in the master page. Verify all details on Congress.gov, GovInfo, and CBO (as available).

CBO-Style Fiscal Scoring Summary (condensed)

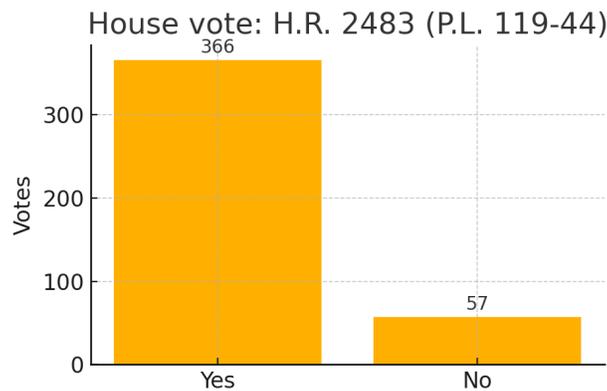
Public Law	Bill	Risk	Fiscal notes (high-level)
P.L. 119-42	S. 2392	Green	CBO estimates enacting S.2392 would increase spending for those programs by about \$5.1B in calendar year 2026.
P.L. 119-43	H.R. 695	Green	Not posted on Congress.gov (CBO).
P.L. 119-44	H.R. 2483	Yellow	Not posted (CBO).
P.L. 119-31	H.R. 1815	Yellow	CBO: would decrease net direct spending by \$147M over 2025–2035.
P.L. 118-82	H.R. 9468	Green	Appropriated supplemental funding to address VBA benefit payment shortfall risk.
P.L. 118-210	S. 141	Yellow	CBO scoring exists (see Congress.gov CBO estimate link for S.141 / related vehicles).
P.L. 119-54	H.R. 970	Green	Not posted (CBO).

Vote Breakdown Charts (House recorded votes available)

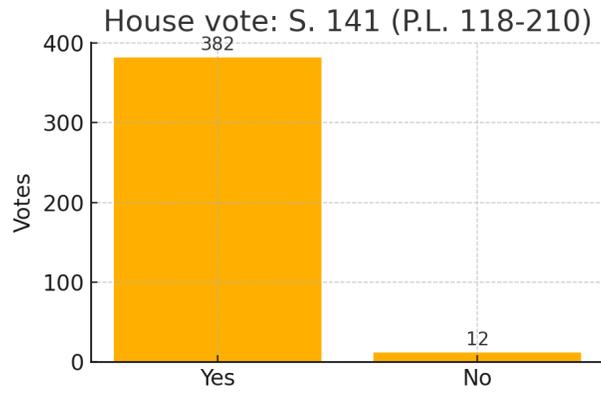
H.R. 695 — House passage vote



H.R. 2483 — House passage vote



S. 141 — House passage vote



P.L. 119-42 — Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2025

Bill: S. 2392 **Status:** Became law **Topic:** Benefits / COLA **Risk:** Green

Signed: Nov 25, 2025 **Effective:** Dec 1, 2025

Official links: Congress.gov: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/2392>; GovInfo: <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/PLAW-119publ42>; White House: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/2025/11/congressional-bills-s-2392-signed-into-law/>

Vote / action:

House: Voice vote

Senate: Unanimous Consent / Voice

Fiscal impact (high-level):

CBO cost estimate (Sep 5, 2025)

CBO estimates enacting S.2392 would increase spending for those programs by about \$5.1B in calendar year 2025 and by similar amounts in 2026.

N/A (primarily mandatory benefit outlays).

PAYGO applies (mandatory outlays).

VSO / stakeholder position snapshots (verify):

- **Commonly supported by major VSOs:** Annual COLA bills are typically viewed as routine and necessary to preserve purchasing power for disability compensation and DIC; organizations often urge timely passage to avoid delay.

Areas where critics sometimes raise concerns:

- **Fiscal:** annual COLA increases raise mandatory outlays; debates sometimes center on long-run baseline growth and budgeting tradeoffs rather than the COLA mechanism itself.

P.L. 119-43 — Medal of Honor Act

Bill: H.R. 695 **Status:** Became law **Topic:** Benefits / Recognition **Risk:** Green

Signed: Dec 1, 2025 **Effective:** Dec 1, 2025

Official links: Congress.gov: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/695>; GovInfo: <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/PLAW-119publ43>

Vote / action:

House: Roll call — 424-0 (Roll no. 51)

Senate: Unanimous Consent

Fiscal impact (high-level):

CBO estimate not posted on Congress.gov for this bill (CBO index indicates none posted).

Not posted on Congress.gov (CBO).

Not posted on Congress.gov (CBO).

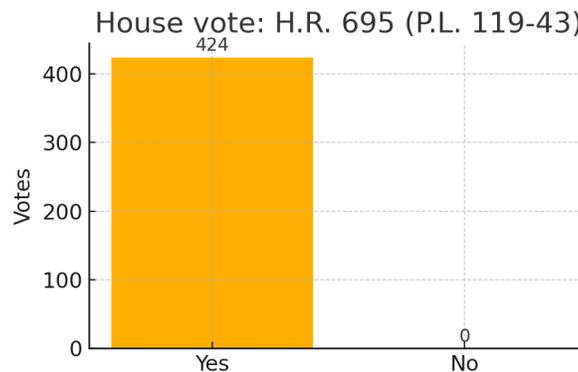
Likely mandatory pension effects; see official budget materials when posted.

VSO / stakeholder position snapshots (verify):

- **Veterans & military honors advocates (varies by org):** Generally supportive as additional recognition for Medal of Honor recipients; formal VSO statements should be checked on each organization's legislative tracker.

Areas where critics sometimes raise concerns:

- Targeted spending increase: small beneficiary population, but some critics may question precedent for large pension increases outside broader veterans' benefit reforms.



P.L. 119-44 — SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act of 2025

Bill: H.R. 2483 **Status:** Became law **Topic:** Health / SUD **Risk:** Yellow

Signed: Dec 1, 2025 **Effective:** Varies (program authorizations FY2026–FY2030)

Official links: Congress.gov: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/2483>; GovInfo: <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/PLAW-119publ44>

Vote / action:

House: Roll call — 366-57 (Roll no. 151)

Senate: Unanimous Consent

Fiscal impact (high-level):

Congress.gov indicates no CBO estimate posted (CBO Cost Estimates [0]).

Not posted (CBO).

Primarily authorizations; fiscal effects depend on appropriations.

Depends on mandatory provisions (if any); consult enacted text and budget docs.

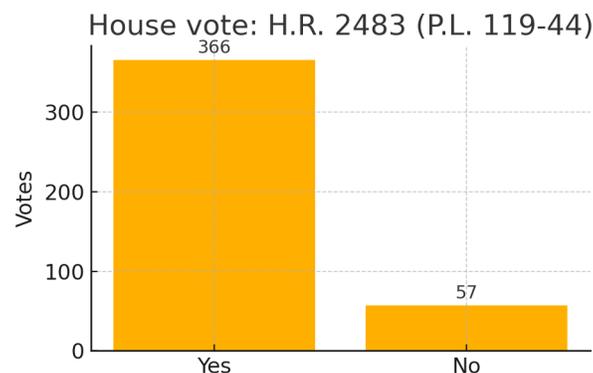
VSO / stakeholder position snapshots (verify):

- **Health-focused VSOs (varies):** Some organizations emphasize the importance of SUD and mental health treatment access for veterans; positions may focus on ensuring VA integration and adequate appropriations.

Areas where critics sometimes raise concerns:

- Program design debates: reauthorization packages can draw criticism around program effectiveness, duplication, and oversight of grants.

- Implementation: agencies' capacity to administer expanded requirements (e.g., cybersecurity and interagency work groups).



P.L. 119-31 — VA Home Loan Program Reform Act

Bill: H.R. 1815 **Status:** Became law **Topic:** Housing / Home loans **Risk:** Yellow

Signed: Jul 30, 2025 **Effective:** Varies

Official links: Congress.gov: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1815>; GovInfo: <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/PLAW-119publ31>

Vote / action:

House: Voice vote

Senate: Voice vote

Fiscal impact (high-level):

CBO estimate (May 13, 2025) summary

CBO: would decrease net direct spending by \$147M over 2025–2035.

CBO: would increase spending subject to appropriation by \$146M over 2025–2035.

PAYGO applies (direct spending).

VSO / stakeholder position snapshots (verify):

- **Housing and foreclosure-prevention advocates (varies):** Often supportive of additional tools to prevent foreclosure for VA-guaranteed loans, while stressing consumer safeguards and clear guidance to lenders/servicers.

Areas where critics sometimes raise concerns:

- Program risk: changes to loss-mitigation/partial-claim tools can create moral-hazard or administrative complexity concerns if guardrails are insufficient.
- Servicer/borrower equity: implementation must be monitored to ensure consistent and fair outcomes.

P.L. 118-82 — Veterans Benefits Continuity & Accountability Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024

Bill: H.R. 9468 **Status:** Became law **Topic:** Benefits / Appropriations **Risk:** Green

Signed: Sep 20, 2024 **Effective:** FY2024

Official links: Congress.gov: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/9468>

Vote / action:

House: Roll call / procedural varies

Senate: Unanimous Consent / Voice

Fiscal impact (high-level):

Appropriations act; fiscal effect is the provided supplemental funding. CBO estimate not linked on Congress.gov.

Appropriated supplemental funding to address VBA benefit payment shortfall risk.

Yes (supplemental appropriations).

N/A (appropriations; budget authority/outlays).

VSO / stakeholder position snapshots (verify):

- **Many VSOs (varies):** Generally supportive of emergency funding to ensure timely benefit payments; positions may call for stronger forecasting and transparency.

Areas where critics sometimes raise concerns:

- **Oversight:** critics may ask why shortfalls occurred and whether reporting/controls are sufficient to prevent recurrence.

P.L. 118-210 — Sen. Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare & Benefits Improvement Act

Bill: S. 141 **Status:** Became law **Topic:** Comprehensive / VA modernization **Risk:** Yellow

Signed: Jan 2, 2025 **Effective:** Varies

Official links: Congress.gov (S.141 actions): <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/141/all-actions>; VA (GI Bill/Dole Act): <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/doleact.asp>

Vote / action:

House: Roll call — 382-12 (Roll no. 504)

Senate: Unanimous Consent

Fiscal impact (high-level):

Congress.gov indicates CBO Cost Estimates [1] for S.141; detailed numbers vary by provisions.

CBO scoring exists (see Congress.gov CBO estimate link for S.141 / related vehicles).

Mixed—authorizations and potential mandatory effects.

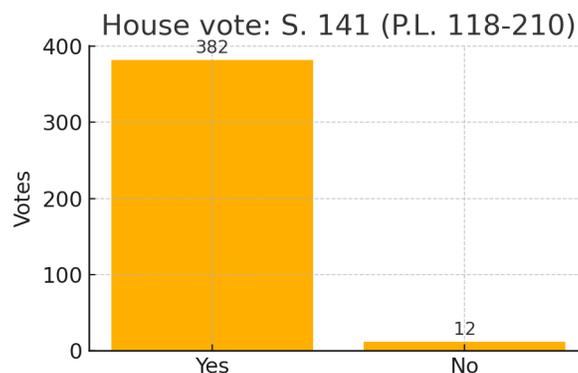
Applies where provisions affect mandatory spending.

VSO / stakeholder position snapshots (verify):

- **Major VSOs (varies):** Many groups supported major components (caregiver support, mental health, homelessness, benefits improvements) while differing on specific provisions; verify each org's legislative scorecard.

Areas where critics sometimes raise concerns:

- **Scope/complexity:** large omnibus veterans packages can draw criticism over implementation burden, program overlap, and cost controls.
- **Community care and eligibility changes** can be controversial depending on stakeholder priorities.



P.L. 119-54 — Fairness for Servicemembers and their Families Act of 2025

Bill: H.R. 970 **Status:** Became law **Topic:** Life insurance **Risk:** Green

Signed: Dec 12, 2025 **Effective:** Varies (review/report cycle)

Official links: Congress.gov: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/970>; GovInfo: <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/PLAW-119publ54>

Vote / action:

House: Voice vote

Senate: Unanimous Consent

Fiscal impact (high-level):

Congress.gov indicates no CBO estimate posted (CBO Cost Estimates [0]).

Not posted (CBO).

Minimal; primarily reporting requirements.

Unclear/likely minimal.

VSO / stakeholder position snapshots (verify):

- **Servicemember family advocates (varies):** Often supportive of periodic review to keep coverage aligned with inflation; check formal letters for specifics.

Areas where critics sometimes raise concerns:

- Administrative: additional reporting requirements; generally low controversy.