S. 7

To merge the Department of Veterans Affairs into the Department of Defense.

_____

IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE

DATE: March 29, 2024

Senator Zach LeMaire (for himself) proposed this bill to the Senate and was referred to the Committee on Relations.

A BILL

To merge the Department of Veterans Affairs into the Department of Defense.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in

Congress assembled,

Section 1. Short Title

    A. This Act may be cited as the "Military and Veterans Departmental Reformation Act".

SEC. 2 - Findings

    A. Since its elevation to cabinet-level status, the Department of Veterans Affairs has consistently mismanaged the educational, healthcare, and other benefits legally owed to honorably discharged veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Many of these issues stem from the lack of proper funding allocated to the Department by Congress and due to departmental bureaucracy delaying several vital processes, often involving the need for additional paperwork to be filled out. Many of the records that require said other paperwork are often held by the Department of Defense and its various military departments, which cannot be released outside of the Department of Defense due to classification level and other Acts of Congress.

SEC. 3 - Amending the Department of Veterans Affairs Act

    A. Section 2 of the "Department of Veterans Affairs Act" shall be amended to read as follows: "The Veterans' Administration is hereby redesignated as the Department of Veterans Affairs and shall be a department within the Department of Defense. There shall be at the head of the Department a Secretary of Veterans Affairs, who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Department shall be administered under the supervision and direction of the Secretary and the Secretary of Defense."

SEC. 4 - Conflicting Laws

    A. All laws that conflict with this one are hereby null and void.

SEC. 5 - WHEN EFFECTIVE

    A. This Act shall take effect immediately upon passage.