

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8354

To establish the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

Ms. ESCOBAR (for herself and Mr. TAYLOR) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To establish the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Servicemembers and  
5 Veterans Initiative Act of 2020.”

6 **SEC. 2. SERVICEMEMBERS AND VETERANS INITIATIVE.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the  
8 Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Civil  
9 Rights Division of the Department of Justice.

1 (b) DUTIES.—The Servicemembers and Veterans Ini-  
2 tiative shall—

3 (1) serve as legal and policy advisor to the At-  
4 torney General on the Department of Justice’s ef-  
5 forts to enforce criminal and civil laws that impact  
6 servicemembers, veterans, and their families;

7 (2) develop policy recommendations for the At-  
8 torney General on how the Department of Justice  
9 may improve enforcement of Federal law to support  
10 servicemembers, veterans, and their families;

11 (3) serve as the liaison and point of contact be-  
12 tween the Department of Justice and the military  
13 departments;

14 (4) provide counsel to the Assistant Attorney  
15 General for the Office of Justice Programs to ensure  
16 funding decisions take into account servicemembers,  
17 veterans, and their families;

18 (5) consult with components of the Department  
19 of Justice to promote the provision of civil legal aid  
20 to servicemembers, veterans, and their families;

21 (6) serve as a liaison with the Assistant Attor-  
22 ney General for the Criminal Division to coordinate  
23 the prosecution of Federal crimes involving fraud  
24 that target servicemembers; and

1           (7) enforce other Federal laws that protect  
2           servicemembers and veterans, as the Attorney Gen-  
3           eral determines appropriate.

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