

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 575

To appropriately limit the authority to award bonuses to employees of the
Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 2015

Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. BENISHEK) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition
to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period
to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration
of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee
concerned

A BILL

To appropriately limit the authority to award bonuses to
employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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 “Stop Wasteful Bonuses
5 in Department of Veterans Affairs Act of 2015” or the
6 “VA Bonus Accountability Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON BONUSES FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE**
2 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 38, United
4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 **“§ 714. Limitation and repayment of bonuses**

7 “(a)(1) If the Comptroller General of the United
8 States, the Inspector General of the Department of Vet-
9 erans Affairs, or any other senior ethics official of the De-
10 partment makes an adverse finding with respect to an em-
11 ployee of the Department, the Secretary, after notice and
12 an opportunity for a hearing, shall issue an order directing
13 the employee to repay to the Department the amount of
14 any bonus paid to the employee during the fiscal year in
15 which the adverse finding is made.

16 “(2) If the Comptroller General of the United States,
17 the Inspector General of the Department, or any other
18 senior ethics official of the Department makes an adverse
19 finding with respect to an employee under subsection (a),
20 the Secretary may not award a bonus to such employee
21 for a period of 5 years beginning on the last day of the
22 fiscal year during which the adverse finding occurred.

23 “(b) In this section—

24 “(1) the term ‘adverse finding’ with respect to
25 an employee means a determination that the conduct
26 of the employee—

1 “(A) violated a policy of the Department of
 2 Veterans Affairs for which the employee may be
 3 removed or suspended; or

4 “(B) violated a law for which the employee
 5 may be imprisoned for more than 1 year; and

6 “(2) the term ‘bonus’ means any bonus or cash
 7 award, including—

8 “(A) an award under chapter 45 of title 5;

9 “(B) an award under section 5384 of such
 10 title; and

11 “(C) a retention bonus under section 5754
 12 of such title.”.

13 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—
 14 The table of sections for chapter 7 of title 38, United
 15 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 16 lowing:

“714. Limitation and repayment of bonuses.”.

17 (c) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by this
 18 section shall apply to any bonus paid in fiscal year 2014
 19 and each fiscal year thereafter.

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