

[H.R. 1382, Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act, as amended](#)

FLOOR SITUATION

On Monday, May 18, 2015, the House will consider [H.R. 1382](#), *the Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act*, as amended, under suspension of the rules. H.R. 1382 was introduced on March 16, 2015, by Rep. Kathleen Rice (D-NY) and was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and its Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, which forwarded it to the full Committee, as amended, by voice vote on April 16, 2015.

SUMMARY

H.R. 1382 would allow the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, when awarding procurement contracts for good or services, to give preference to government contractors that employ veterans on a full-time basis. The Secretary is required to determine the preference based on the percentage of full-time employees of the offeror who are veterans.

The bill requires the Secretary to debar contractors who, to receive a contract, purposely misrepresent their employment of veterans. Debarment would begin no later than 30 days, and conclude no later than 90 days, after the Secretary determines that the offeror willfully and intentionally misrepresented the veteran status of its employees. The debarment would be in force for a period of not less than five years.

BACKGROUND

A major problem for returning veterans, especially those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, is finding civilian employment. According to the bill's sponsor, the unemployment rate among post 9/11 veterans is higher than the national average.¹ The bill is designed to boost employment rates among this population by rewarding companies that provide such incentives and encouraging others to do the same.

¹ See Statement of Rep. Kathleen Rice—[“Rep. Rice's Opening Statement on the BRAVE Act.”](#) March 24, 2015.

COST

A cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is currently unavailable.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information please contact [Jerry White](#) with the House Republican Policy Committee by email or at 5-0190.