

Trump expected to sign a bill next week that reorganizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to make it easier to fire employees

S. 1094: Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017

- Introduced to the Senate on May 11, 2017
- Bill passed Senate June 6, 2017
- House passed bill June 13, 2017
- Trump signed bill June 23, 2017



- S. 1094 reorganizes the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection to make it easier to fire personnel
- Originally, VA employees could appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) if their firing or suspension was undue
- This bill makes it so that senior employees can no longer appeal and instead are subjected to a disciplinary process under the VA itself
- Secretary of VA would hold all the power to fire employees and also run the appeal hearing

CBO estimates that implementing this bill would increase costs by **\$3 million** By 2026

The Department of Veterans Affairs still has **50,000** job vacancies

The Department of Veterans Affairs still has a total of **298,546** employees



“I need, as secretary, if I’m going to change this organization, the ability to remove employees that clearly no longer in my view should have the privilege of serving our veterans.”
VA Secretary, David Shulkin

Sources: “S. 1094,” GovTrack, June 13, 2017; “New VA law sets stage for government-wide cut in civil-service protections,” Washington Post, June 20, 2017.