

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 8354, With an Amendment**

**(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)**

116<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> 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.”

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

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the  
3 Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Civil  
4 Rights Division of the Department of Justice.

5 (b) DUTIES.—The Servicemembers and Veterans Ini-  
6 tiative shall—

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

11 (2) develop policy recommendations for the At-  
12 torney General on how the Department of Justice  
13 may improve enforcement of Federal law to support  
14 servicemembers, veterans, and their families;

15 (3) serve as the liaison and point of contact be-  
16 tween the Department of Justice and the military  
17 departments;

18 (4) provide counsel to the Assistant Attorney  
19 General for the Office of Justice Programs to ensure  
20 funding decisions take into account servicemembers,  
21 veterans, and their families;

22 (5) consult with components of the Department  
23 of Justice to promote the provision of civil legal aid  
24 to servicemembers, veterans, and their families;

25 (6) serve as a liaison and point of contact with  
26 the Consumer Protection Branch of the Civil Divi-

1 sion of the Department of Justice, with respect to  
2 the prosecution of Federal crimes involving fraud  
3 that target servicemembers; and

4 (7) serve as a liaison and point of contact with  
5 other components of the Department of Justice as  
6 needed to support the enforcement of other Federal  
7 laws that protect servicemembers and veterans, as  
8 the Attorney General determines appropriate.