

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-54
OFFERED BY MR. PAPPAS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

At the end of title LI, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 51__ . SECURING THE RIGHTS OUR VETERANS**
2 **EARNED.**

3 (a) REMOVAL OF CERTAIN BARS TO BENEFITS
4 UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY OF
5 VETERANS AFFAIRS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—

7 (A) VETERAN DEFINED.—Paragraph (2)
8 of section 101 of title 38, United States Code,
9 is amended by striking “who was discharged or
10 released therefrom under conditions other than
11 dishonorable” and inserting “whose discharge
12 or release therefrom was not dishonorable”.

13 (B) BARS TO BENEFITS.—Section 5303 of
14 such title is amended—

15 (i) in subsection (a), by striking “if
16 such person was discharged under condi-
17 tions other than honorable”; and

18 (ii) by striking subsection (e).

19 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

1 (A) HOUSING AND SMALL BUSINESS
2 LOANS.—Section 3702(c) of such title is
3 amended, in the first sentence, by striking “, or
4 who received a discharge other than honor-
5 able,”.

6 (B) EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT
7 RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED
8 SERVICES.—Section 4304 of such title is
9 amended—

10 (i) by striking paragraph (2); and

11 (ii) redesignating paragraphs (3) and
12 (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

13 (b) TRAINING.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
14 shall require all employees of the Department whom the
15 Secretary determines to be front-line staff (including such
16 employees whom the Secretary considers departmental fa-
17 cility enrollment and eligibility staff, and staff who develop
18 policies and procedures of the Department), to participate,
19 as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of
20 this Act, in training regarding eligibility standards, based
21 on character of discharge, for benefits under laws adminis-
22 tered by the Secretary.

23 (c) REVIEWS: CHARACTER OF DISCHARGE; IMPLE-
24 MENTATION OF THIS ACT.—

1 (1) SECRETARY.—Not later than one year after
2 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
3 of Veterans Affairs shall implement a plan to con-
4 duct an additional character of discharge review for
5 each individual who was previously denied a benefit
6 under a law administered by the Secretary because
7 the individual was discharged or released from active
8 military, naval, air, or space service under a condi-
9 tion—

10 (A) other than honorable; and

11 (B) other than dishonorable.

12 (2) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—Not later than two
13 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
14 Inspector General of the Department of Veterans
15 Affairs shall—

16 (A) conduct a review of implementation of
17 the amendments made by this Act; and

18 (B) submit to the Committees on Veterans'
19 Affairs of the Senate and House of Representa-
20 tives a report containing—

21 (i) the results of such review; and

22 (ii) recommendations of the Inspector
23 General regarding how the Secretary of

1 Veterans Affairs may improve such imple-
2 mentation.

