

FORMERLY OWNED RESOURCES FOR VETERANS TO  
EXPRESS THANKS FOR SERVICE ACT OF 2013

—————  
JUNE 25, 2013.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of  
the Union and ordered to be printed  
—————

Mr. ISSA, from the Committee on Oversight and Government  
Reform, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 1171]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to whom  
was referred the bill (H.R. 1171) to amend title 40, United States  
Code, to improve veterans' service organizations access to Federal  
surplus personal property, having considered the same, report fa-  
vorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill  
do pass.

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## COMMITTEE STATEMENT AND VIEWS

## PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

H.R. 1171, the Formerly Owned Resources for Veterans to Express Thanks for Service Act of 2013 (FOR VETS), permits veterans' service organizations to obtain surplus federal personal property to provide services to our Nation's veterans.

## BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

When federal agencies no longer need personal property such as office supplies, furniture and motor vehicles, the items are eligible to be donated to private agencies that serve the public.

Current law stipulates that veterans' service organizations can only receive personal property for a narrow set of services; veterans' service organizations, however, provide a broad range of services. H.R. 1171 would make our nation's veterans' service organizations eligible to receive property to utilize for the full breadth of services that they provide.

Our nation's veterans deserve high-quality services from our public and private institutions, and H.R. 1171 is a small step in providing this essential support.

## LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

In 2010, S. 3794 became public law, allowing veterans' service organizations to receive personal property for public health and educational purposes. Also made eligible were medical institutions, homeless service providers, and child care centers, among others.

## SECTION-BY-SECTION

*Section 1. Short title*

This is the short title of the bill "Formerly Owned Resources for Veterans to Express Thanks for Service Act of 2013" or the "FOR VETS Act of 2013."

*Section 2. Veterans access to Federal excess and surplus personal property*

This section permits veterans' service organizations to obtain surplus personal property to provide services to veterans.

## EXPLANATION OF AMENDMENTS

No amendments to H.R. 1171 were offered.

## COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

On May 22, 2013, the Committee met in open session and ordered reported favorably the bill, H.R. 1171, by voice vote, a quorum being present.

## APPLICATION OF LAW TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 102(b)(3) of Public Law 104-1 requires a description of the application of this bill to the legislative branch where the bill relates to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services and accommodations. This bill permits veterans' service

organizations to obtain surplus federal personal property to provide services to our Nation's veterans. Legislative branch employees and their families, to the extent that they are otherwise eligible for the benefits provided by this legislation, have equal access to its benefits.

#### STATEMENT OF OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

In compliance with clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII and clause (2)(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee's oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the descriptive portions of this report.

#### STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In accordance with clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee's performance goals and objectives are reflected in the descriptive portions of this report.

#### DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

No provision of H.R. 1171 establishes or reauthorizes a program of the Federal Government known to be duplicative of another Federal program, a program that was included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111-139, or a program related to a program identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

#### DISCLOSURE OF DIRECTED RULE MAKINGS

The Committee estimates that enacting H.R. 1171 does not direct the completion of any specific rule makings within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 551.

#### FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT

The Committee finds that the legislation does not establish or authorize the establishment of an advisory committee within the definition of 5 U.S.C. App., Section 5(b).

#### UNFUNDED MANDATE STATEMENT

Section 423 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act (as amended by Section 101(a)(2) of the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act, P.L. 104-4) requires a statement as to whether the provisions of the reported bill include unfunded mandates. In compliance with this requirement the Committee has received a letter from the Congressional Budget Office included herein.

#### EARMARK IDENTIFICATION

H.R. 1171 does not include any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

#### COMMITTEE ESTIMATE

Clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Com-

mittee of the costs that would be incurred in carrying out H.R. 1171. However, clause 3(d)(3)(B) of that rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act.

BUDGET AUTHORITY AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST  
ESTIMATE

With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and with respect to requirements of clause (3)(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for H.R. 1171 from the Director of Congressional Budget Office:

JUNE 5, 2013.

Hon. DARRELL ISSA,  
*Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 1171, the FOR VETS Act of 2013.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Matthew Pickford.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF.

Enclosure.

*H.R. 1171—FOR VETS Act of 2013*

H.R. 1171 would amend federal law regarding the disposal of federal personal property (including items such as furniture, office supplies, and construction equipment). Under current law, veterans organizations involved in education or health programs can obtain personal property through the Federal Surplus Personal Property Donation Program at no cost; other organizations must pay for such property. The legislation would expand eligibility to allow any organization that primarily supports veterans to receive donations free of charge.

Based on information from the General Services Administration (GSA) about the current donation program, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Enacting H.R. 1171 would reduce offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending); therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. However, CBO estimates that any such losses of offsetting receipts that might result from donating personal property to additional veterans organizations would not be significant in any year because GSA already offers many organizations the opportunity to receive surplus personal property. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues.

H.R. 1171 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

**TITLE 40, UNITED STATES CODE**

\* \* \* \* \*

**SUBTITLE I—FEDERAL PROPERTY AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

\* \* \* \* \*

**CHAPTER 5—PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

\* \* \* \* \*

**SUBCHAPTER III—DISPOSING OF PROPERTY**

\* \* \* \* \*

**§ 549. Donation of personal property through state agencies**

(a) \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

(c) ALLOCATION AND TRANSFER OF PROPERTY.—

(1) \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

(3) RECIPIENTS AND PURPOSES.—The Administrator shall transfer to a state agency property the state agency selects for distribution through donation within the State—

(A) to a public agency for use in carrying out or promoting, for residents of a given political area, a public purpose, including conservation, economic development, education, parks and recreation, public health, and public safety; **[or]**

(B) for purposes of education or public health (including research), to a nonprofit educational or public health institution or organization that is exempt from taxation under section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 501), including—

(i) \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

(viii) a library serving free all residents of a community, district, State, or region; *or*

\* \* \* \* \*

**[x]** an organization whose—

【(I) membership comprises substantially veterans (as defined under section 101 of title 38); and

【(II) representatives are recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 5902 of title 38.】

*(C) for purposes of providing services to veterans (as defined in section 101 of title 38), to an organization whose—  
(i) membership comprises substantially veterans; and  
(ii) representatives are recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 5902 of title 38.*

\* \* \* \* \*

