

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 974

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 14, 2017

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## AN ACT

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in awarding a contract for the procurement of goods or services, to give a preference to offerors that employ veterans.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Boosting Rates of  
3 American Veteran Employment Act” or the “BRAVE  
4 Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. PREFERENCE FOR OFFERORS EMPLOYING VET-**  
6 **ERANS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 81 of  
8 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding after  
9 section 8128 the following new section:

10 **“§ 8129. Preference for offerors employing veterans**

11 “(a) PREFERENCE.—In awarding a contract for the  
12 procurement of goods or services, the Secretary may give  
13 a preference to offerors that employ veterans on a full-  
14 time basis. The Secretary shall determine such preference  
15 based on the percentage of the full-time employees of the  
16 offeror who are veterans.

17 “(b) ENFORCEMENT PENALTIES FOR MISREPRESENTATION.—(1) Any offeror that is determined by the Sec-  
18 retary to have willfully and intentionally misrepresented  
19 the veteran status of the employees of the offeror for pur-  
20 poses of subsection (a) may be debarred from contracting  
21 with the Department for a period of not less than 5 years.

22 “(2) If the Secretary carries out a debarment under  
23 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall commence debarment  
24 action against the offeror by not later than 30 days after  
25 determining that the offeror willfully and intentionally  
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1 misrepresented the veteran status of the employees of the  
2 offeror as described in paragraph (1) and shall complete  
3 debarment actions against such offeror by not later than  
4 90 days after such determination.

5 “(3) The debarment of an offeror under paragraph  
6 (1) includes the debarment of all principals in the offeror  
7 for a period of not less than 5 years.”.

8 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
9 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting  
10 after the item relating to section 8128 the following new  
11 item:

“8129. Preference for offerors employing veterans.”.

Passed the House of Representatives February 13,  
2017.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

*Clerk.*