

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 974

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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  
26

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:

*Clerk.*

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