



## H.R. 4255 – United States Olympic Committee Paralympic Program Act of 2008

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 4255 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Bob Filner (D-CA) on December 4, 2007. The bill was reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs as amended on July 24, 2008, by voice vote.

H.R. 4255 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 29, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

Grant: H.R. 4255 authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs to provide a grant to the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) to plan, develop, manage, and implement the Paralympic Program for disabled veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces and allows the Secretary to conduct oversight of the use of grant funds by the USOC.

Authorization Level: The bill authorizes \$8 million annually for this program.

Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events: The bill establishes this new office within the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Director of this office is responsible for establishing, carrying out, or providing sponsorship for events in which disabled members of the Armed Forces and disabled veterans participate.

Monthly Assistance Allowance: It also allows for a monthly assistance allowance to be paid to a veteran with a disability invited by the USOC to compete for a slot on, or selected for, the Paralympic Team. The bill authorizes \$2 million each year for this provision.

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### BACKGROUND

In November 2005, the USOC and the Department of Veterans Affairs signed a Memorandum of Understanding to increase the number of disabled veterans participating in sports and to encourage them to try out for the U.S. Paralympic Team.

The USOC Paralympic Military Program introduces servicemen and women who have sustained physical injuries to adaptive sports techniques and opportunities through the Paralympic Military Sports Camps and community based programs. Elite athletes live and train at the U.S. Olympic Training Centers as part of the Veterans Paralympic Performance Program (VP3).

The 2008 Paralympic Games will be held in Beijing on September 6-17, 2008.

[List of U.S. Military athletes competing in the 2008 Paralympic Games](#)

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### COST

A Congressional Budget Office cost estimate is not available for this legislation.

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### STAFF CONTACT

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