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“House Passes Legislation to Abolish WACS”

The House Armed Services Committee has determined that by abolishing the WACS it will begin to eliminate sex distinctions in military policies. The Committee also included in the bill an elimination of all special provision for women (the article does not report what that is) but they will still be prohibited from flying combat missions or serving on ships other than hospital ships or transports.

HOUSE PASSES LEGISLATION TO ABOLISH WACS

D. N. Eng 8-14-1976
WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — The House overwhelmingly approved and sent to the Senate Monday a bill to abolish the 34-year-old Women's Army Corps (WACS) and to streamline military officer promotions.

Abolishing the WACS was viewed as another step in eliminating sex distinctions in promotions and other military policies. The bill, approved by a 343-to-4 vote, would set out a single officer promotion policy for the first time for all four services, and set limits on numbers of field grade officers: colonels, captains and commanders.

The WACS would be abolished 90 days after the bill becomes law.

Congress created the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps May 14, 1942, and later changed it to the Women's Army Corps. It, like the other women's corps, was not created separately for each branch of the armed services, even though the corps had their own names:

Women in the Air Force, Women Marines and Waves, which stood for Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service.

A report accompanying the bill says it would eliminate all special provisions for women except the ones prohibiting them from flying combat missions or serving on ships other than hospital ships or transports.

The House Armed Services Committee report said: "The committee believes that having a separate corps is a vestige of the time when women were not treated equally."

The bill also would abolish the positions of director of the Waves, which is already vacant, and director of the Women Marines.

The bill's single officer promotion policy for all services would eliminate the present system of awarding officers temporary ranks above their permanent ranks, and establish a sliding-scale limit on the number of colonels, captains and commanders the services may have.