

House votes to abolish Women's Army Corps

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WASHINGTON (AP) — The House overwhelmingly approved a bill Monday to abolish the 34-year-old Women's Army Corps 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 was approved by the House 343 to 4 and now goes to the Senate.

It 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.

Congress created the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps May 14, 1942, and later changed it to the Women's Army Corps.

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

Women's corps were not created separately for the other services even though they had their own names: Women in the Air Force, Women Ma-

rines 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 abolishes 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.

The bill sets out a sliding scale limit on number of colonels, captains and commanders the services may have for different total numbers of officers.