

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of services for homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BURR (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. TESTER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of services for homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Homeless Veterans
5 Prevention Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF PER DIEM PAYMENTS FOR**
2 **FURNISHING CARE TO DEPENDENTS OF CER-**
3 **TAIN HOMELESS VETERANS.**

4 Subsection (a) of section 2012 of title 38, United
5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing new paragraph:

7 “(4) Services for which a recipient of a grant under
8 section 2011 of this title (or an entity described in para-
9 graph (1)) may receive per diem payments under this sub-
10 section may include furnishing care for a dependent of a
11 homeless veteran who is under the care of such homeless
12 veteran while such homeless veteran receives services from
13 the grant recipient (or entity).”.

14 **SEC. 3. PARTNERSHIPS WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTI-**
15 **TIES TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES TO**
16 **HOMELESS VETERANS AND VETERANS AT**
17 **RISK OF HOMELESSNESS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 20 of title 38, United
19 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2022
20 the following new section:

21 **“§ 2022A. Partnerships with public and private enti-**
22 **ties to provide legal services to homeless**
23 **veterans and veterans at risk of home-**
24 **lessness**

25 “(a) PARTNERSHIPS AUTHORIZED.—Subject to the
26 availability of funds for that purpose, the Secretary shall

1 enter into partnerships with public or private entities to
2 fund a portion of the general legal services specified in
3 subsection (c) that are provided by such entities to home-
4 less veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.

5 “(b) LOCATIONS.—(1) The Secretary shall ensure
6 that, to the extent practicable, partnerships under this sec-
7 tion are made with entities equitably distributed across the
8 geographic regions of the United States, including rural
9 communities, tribal lands of the United States, Native
10 Americans, and tribal organizations.

11 “(2) In this subsection, the terms ‘Native American’
12 and ‘tribal organization’ have the meanings given such
13 terms in section 3765 of this title.

14 “(c) LEGAL SERVICES.—Legal services specified in
15 this subsection include legal services provided by public
16 or private entities that address the needs of homeless vet-
17 erans and veterans at risk of homelessness as follows:

18 “(1) Legal services related to housing, including
19 eviction defense and representation in landlord-ten-
20 ant cases and foreclosure proceedings.

21 “(2) Legal services related to family law, in-
22 cluding assistance in court proceedings for family re-
23 unification, child support, divorce, and estate plan-
24 ning.

1 “(3) Legal services related to income support,
2 including assistance in obtaining public benefits.

3 “(4) Legal services related to criminal defense,
4 including defense in matters symptomatic of home-
5 lessness, such as outstanding warrants, fines, and
6 driver’s license revocation, to reduce recidivism and
7 facilitate the overcoming of reentry obstacles in em-
8 ployment or housing.

9 “(5) Such other legal services as the Secretary
10 considers appropriate and necessary.

11 “(d) CONSULTATION.—In developing and carrying
12 out partnerships under this section, the Secretary shall,
13 to the extent practicable, consult with public and private
14 entities—

15 “(1) for assistance in identifying and contacting
16 organizations described in subsection (c); and

17 “(2) to coordinate appropriate outreach rela-
18 tionships with such organizations.

19 “(e) REPORTS.—The Secretary may require entities
20 that have entered into partnerships under this section to
21 submit to the Secretary periodic reports on legal services
22 provided to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of
23 homelessness pursuant to such partnerships.”.

24 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
25 at the beginning of chapter 20 of such title is amended

1 by adding after the item relating to section 2022 the fol-
2 lowing new item:

“2022A. Partnerships with public and private entities to provide legal services
to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.”.

3 **SEC. 4. EXPANSION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
4 **FAIRS AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE DENTAL**
5 **CARE TO HOMELESS VETERANS.**

6 Subsection (b) of section 2062 of title 38, United
7 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

8 “(b) **ELIGIBLE VETERANS.**—(1) Subsection (a) ap-
9 plies to a veteran who—

10 “(A) is enrolled for care under section 1705(a)
11 of this title; and

12 “(B) for a period of 60 consecutive days, is re-
13 ceiving—

14 “(i) assistance under section 8(o) of the
15 United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.
16 1437f(o)); or

17 “(ii) care (directly or by contract) in any
18 of the following settings:

19 “(I) A domiciliary under section 1710
20 of this title.

21 “(II) A therapeutic residence under
22 section 2032 of this title.

1 “(III) Community residential care co-
2 ordinated by the Secretary under section
3 1730 of this title.

4 “(IV) A setting for which the Sec-
5 retary provides funds for a grant and per
6 diem provider.

7 “(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), in determining
8 whether a veteran has received assistance or care for a
9 period of 60 consecutive days, the Secretary may disregard
10 breaks in the continuity of assistance or care for which
11 the veteran is not responsible.”.

12 **SEC. 5. REPEAL OF SUNSET ON AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT**
13 **PROGRAM OF REFERRAL AND COUNSELING**
14 **SERVICES FOR VETERANS AT RISK FOR**
15 **HOMELESSNESS WHO ARE TRANSITIONING**
16 **FROM CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS.**

17 Section 2023 of title 38, United States Code, is
18 amended—

19 (1) by striking subsection (d); and

20 (2) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
21 section (d).

1 **SEC. 6. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR FINANCIAL ASSIST-**
2 **ANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VERY**
3 **LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES IN PERMA-**
4 **NENT HOUSING.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 2044(e)
6 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

7 (1) in subparagraph (E), by striking “2017”
8 and inserting “2016”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
10 paragraph (F):

11 “(F) \$500,000,000 for fiscal year 2017.”.

12 (b) TRAINING ENTITIES FOR PROVISION OF SUP-
13 PORTIVE SERVICES.—Paragraph (3) of such section is
14 amended by inserting “and 2017” after “through 2012”.

15 **SEC. 7. REQUIREMENT FOR COMPTROLLER GENERAL TO**
16 **STUDY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
17 **HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAMS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the
19 date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
20 of the United States shall complete a study of programs
21 of the Department of Veterans Affairs that provide assist-
22 ance to homeless veterans.

23 (b) ELEMENTS.—The study required by subsection
24 (a) shall include the following:

25 (1) An assessment of whether programs de-
26 scribed in subsection (a) are meeting the needs of

1 veterans who are eligible for assistance provided by
2 such programs.

3 (2) A review of recent efforts of the Secretary
4 of Veterans Affairs to improve the privacy, safety,
5 and security of female veterans receiving assistance
6 from such programs.

7 **SEC. 8. REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL REPORTS**

8 **ON ASSISTANCE TO HOMELESS VETERANS.**

9 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 2065 of title 38, United
10 States Code, is hereby repealed.

11 (b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections
12 at the beginning of chapter 20 of such title is amended
13 by striking the item relating to section 2065.