

Calendar No. 388

103D CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 1512

[Report No. 103-237]

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the establishment in the Department of Veterans Affairs of mental illness research, education, and clinical centers, and for other purposes.

MARCH 17 (legislative day, FEBRUARY 22), 1994

Reported with an amendment

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To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the establishment in the Department of Veterans Affairs of mental illness research, education, and clinical centers, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 30 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 27), 1993

Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. CAMPBELL, and Mr. WELLSTONE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

MARCH 17 (legislative day, FEBRUARY 22), 1994

Reported by Mr. ROCKEFELLER, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the establishment in the Department of Veterans Affairs of mental illness research, education, and clinical centers, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. MENTAL ILLNESS RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND**
2 **CLINICAL CENTERS.**

3 (a) ~~IN GENERAL.~~—Subchapter H of chapter 73 of
4 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
5 end the following:

6 **“§ 7319. Mental illness research, education, and clini-**
7 **cal centers**

8 “(a) The purpose of this section is to improve the
9 provision of health-care services and related counseling
10 services to eligible veterans suffering from mental illness,
11 especially mental illness related to service-related condi-
12 tions, through research, the education and training of per-
13 sonnel, and the development of improved models for fur-
14 nishing clinical services.

15 “(b)(1) In order to carry out the purpose of this sec-
16 tion, the Secretary, upon the recommendation of the
17 Under Secretary for Health and pursuant to the provi-
18 sions of this subsection, shall—

19 “(A) designate not more than five health-care
20 facilities of the Department as the locations for a
21 center of mental illness research, education and
22 training, and clinical activities; and

23 “(B) subject to the appropriation of funds for
24 such purpose, establish and operate such centers at
25 such locations in accordance with this section.

1 ~~“(2) The Secretary shall designate at least one facil-~~
2 ~~ity under paragraph (1) not later than January 1, 1994.~~

3 ~~“(3) The Secretary, upon the recommendation of the~~
4 ~~Under Secretary for Health, shall ensure that the facilities~~
5 ~~designated for centers under paragraph (1) are located in~~
6 ~~various geographic regions.~~

7 ~~“(4) The Secretary may not designate any health-~~
8 ~~care facility as a location for a center under paragraph~~
9 ~~(1) unless the Secretary, upon the recommendation of the~~
10 ~~Under Secretary for Health, determines that the facility~~
11 ~~has developed (or may reasonably be anticipated to de-~~
12 ~~velop)—~~

13 ~~“(A) an arrangement with an accredited medi-~~
14 ~~cal school which provides education and training in~~
15 ~~psychiatry and with which the facility is affiliated~~
16 ~~under which arrangement residents receive education~~
17 ~~and training in psychiatry through regular rotation~~
18 ~~through the facility so as to provide such residents~~
19 ~~with training in the diagnosis and treatment of men-~~
20 ~~tal illness;~~

21 ~~“(B) an arrangement with an accredited grad-~~
22 ~~uate school of psychology which provides education~~
23 ~~and training in clinical or counseling psychology, or~~
24 ~~both, and with which the facility is affiliated under~~
25 ~~which arrangement students receive education and~~

1 training in clinical or counseling psychology, or both,
2 through regular rotation through the facility so as to
3 provide such students with training in the diagnosis
4 and treatment of mental illness;

5 “(C) an arrangement under which nursing, so-
6 cial work, or other allied health personnel receive
7 training and education in mental health care
8 through regular rotation through the facility;

9 “(D) the ability to attract scientists who have
10 demonstrated creativity and achievement in research
11 into the causes, treatment, and prevention of mental
12 illness and into models for furnishing care and treat-
13 ment to veterans suffering from mental illness;

14 “(E) a policymaking advisory committee com-
15 posed of appropriate mental health-care and re-
16 search personnel of the facility and of the affiliated
17 school or schools to advise the directors of the facil-
18 ity and the center on policy matters pertaining to
19 the activities of the center during the period of the
20 operation of the center; and

21 “(F) the capability to conduct effectively eval-
22 uations of the activities of the center.

23 “(c) Clinical and scientific investigation activities at
24 each center may compete for the award of funding from
25 amounts appropriated for the Department of Veterans Af-

1 fairs medical and prosthetics research account and shall
2 receive priority in the award of funding from such account
3 insofar as funds are awarded to projects and activities re-
4 lating mental illness.

5 “(d) The Under Secretary for Health shall ensure
6 that research activities carried out through centers estab-
7 lished under subsection (b)(1) include an appropriate em-
8 phasis on the psychosocial dimension of mental illness and
9 on proposals of means of furnishing care and treatment
10 to veterans suffering from mental illness.

11 “(e) The Under Secretary for Health shall ensure
12 that useful information produced by the research, edu-
13 cation and training, and clinical activities of the centers
14 established under subsection (b)(1) is disseminated
15 throughout the Veterans Health Administration through
16 the development of programs of continuing medical and
17 related education provided through regional medical edu-
18 cation centers under subchapter VI of chapter 74 of this
19 title and through other means.

20 “(f) The official within the Central Office of the Vet-
21 erans Health Administration responsible for mental health
22 and behavioral sciences matters shall be responsible for
23 supervising the operation of the centers established pursu-
24 ant to subsection (b)(1).

1 “(g)(1) There are authorized to be appropriated for
 2 the Department of Veterans Affairs for the basic support
 3 of the research and education and training activities of
 4 the centers established pursuant to subsection (b)(1) the
 5 following:

6 “(A) \$3,125,000 for fiscal year 1994.

7 “(B) \$6,250,000 for each of fiscal years 1995
 8 through 1997.

9 “(2) In addition to the funds available under the au-
 10 thorization of appropriations in paragraph (1), the Under
 11 Secretary for Health shall allocate to such centers from
 12 other funds appropriated generally for the Department of
 13 Veterans Affairs medical care account and the Depart-
 14 ment of Veterans Affairs medical and prosthetics research
 15 account such amounts as the Under Secretary for Health
 16 determines appropriate in order to carry out the purposes
 17 of this section.”.

18 ~~(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.~~—The table of sections
 19 at the beginning of chapter 73 of such title is amended
 20 by adding at the end of the matter relating to subchapter
 21 II the following:

“7319. Mental illness research, education, and clinical centers.”.

22 ~~(c) REPORTS.~~—Not later than February 1 of each of
 23 1995, 1996, and 1997, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
 24 shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of
 25 the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the

1 status and activities during the previous fiscal year of the
2 mental illness, research, education, and clinical centers es-
3 tablished pursuant to section 7319 of title 38, United
4 States Code (as added by subsection (a)). Each such re-
5 port shall contain the following:

6 (1) A description of—

7 (A) the activities carried out at each center
8 and the funding provided for such activities;

9 (B) the advances made at each center in
10 research, education and training, and clinical
11 activities relating to mental illness in veterans;
12 and

13 (C) the actions taken by the Under Sec-
14 retary for Health pursuant to subsection (d) of
15 such section (as so added) to disseminate useful
16 information derived from such activities
17 throughout the Veterans Health Administra-
18 tion.

19 (2) The Secretary's evaluations of the effective-
20 ness of the centers in fulfilling the purposes of the
21 centers.

1 **SECTION 1. MENTAL ILLNESS RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND**
 2 **CLINICAL CENTERS.**

3 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Subchapter II of chapter 73 of title
 4 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
 5 the following:

6 **“§ 7319. Mental illness research, education, and clini-**
 7 **cal centers**

8 “(a) *The purpose of this section is to improve the pro-*
 9 *vision of health-care services and related counseling services*
 10 *to eligible veterans suffering from mental illness, especially*
 11 *mental illness related to service-related conditions, through*
 12 *research (including research on improving mental health*
 13 *service facilities of the Department and on improving the*
 14 *delivery of mental health services by the Department), edu-*
 15 *cation and training of personnel, and the development of*
 16 *improved models and systems for the furnishing of mental*
 17 *health services by the Department.*

18 “(b)(1) *In order to carry out the purpose of this sec-*
 19 *tion, the Secretary, upon the recommendation of the Under*
 20 *Secretary for Health and pursuant to the provisions of this*
 21 *subsection, shall—*

22 “(A) *designate not more than five health-care fa-*
 23 *cilities of the Department as the locations for a center*
 24 *of research on mental health services, on the use by*
 25 *the Department of specific models for furnishing such*
 26 *services, on education and training, and on the devel-*

1 *opment and implementation of innovative clinical ac-*
2 *tivities and systems of care with respect to the deliv-*
3 *ery of such services by the Department; and*

4 *“(B) subject to the appropriation of funds for*
5 *such purpose, establish and operate such centers at*
6 *such locations in accordance with this section.*

7 *“(2) The Secretary shall designate at least one facility*
8 *under paragraph (1) not later than January 1, 1994.*

9 *“(3) The Secretary shall, upon the recommendation of*
10 *the Under Secretary for Health, ensure that the facilities*
11 *designated for centers under paragraph (1) are located in*
12 *various geographic regions.*

13 *“(4) The Secretary may not designate any health-care*
14 *facility as a location for a center under paragraph (1) un-*
15 *less—*

16 *“(A) the peer review panel established under*
17 *paragraph (5) has determined under that paragraph*
18 *that the proposal submitted by such facility as a loca-*
19 *tion for a new center under this subsection is among*
20 *those proposals which have met the highest competi-*
21 *tive standards of scientific and clinical merit; and*

22 *“(B) the Secretary, upon the recommendation of*
23 *the Under Secretary for Health, determines that the*
24 *facility has developed (or may reasonably be antici-*
25 *pated to develop)—*

1 “(i) an arrangement with an accredited
2 medical school which provides education and
3 training in psychiatry and with which the facil-
4 ity is affiliated under which arrangement resi-
5 dents receive education and training in psychia-
6 try through regular rotation through the facility
7 so as to provide such residents with training in
8 the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness;

9 “(ii) an arrangement with an accredited
10 graduate school of psychology under which ar-
11 rangement students receive education and train-
12 ing in clinical, counseling, or professional psy-
13 chology through regular rotation through the fa-
14 cility so as to provide such students with train-
15 ing in the diagnosis and treatment of mental ill-
16 ness;

17 “(iii) an arrangement under which nursing,
18 social work, or allied health personnel receive
19 training and education in mental health care
20 through regular rotation through the facility;

21 “(iv) the ability to attract scientists who
22 have demonstrated creativity and achievement in
23 research—

1 “(I) into the evaluation of innovative
2 approaches to the design of mental health
3 services; or

4 “(II) into the causes, prevention, and
5 treatment of mental illness;

6 “(v) a policymaking advisory committee
7 composed of appropriate mental health-care and
8 research personnel of the facility and of the af-
9 filiated school or schools to advise the directors
10 of the facility and the center on policy matters
11 pertaining to the activities of the center during
12 the period of the operation of the center; and

13 “(vi) the capability to evaluate effectively
14 the activities of the center, including activities
15 relating to the evaluation of specific efforts to
16 improve the quality and effectiveness of mental
17 health services provided by the Department at or
18 through individual facilities.

19 “(5)(A) In order to provide advice to assist the Under
20 Secretary for Health and the Secretary to carry out their
21 responsibilities under this section, the official within the
22 Central Office of the Veterans Health Administration re-
23 sponsible for mental health and behavioral sciences matters
24 shall establish a panel to assess the scientific and clinical

1 *merit of proposals that are submitted to the Secretary for*
2 *the establishment of new centers under this subsection.*

3 “(B) *The membership of the panel shall consist of ex-*
4 *perts in the fields of mental health research, education and*
5 *training, and clinical care. Members of the panel shall serve*
6 *as consultants to the Department for a period of no longer*
7 *than six months.*

8 “(C) *The panel shall review each proposal submitted*
9 *to the panel by the official referred to in subparagraph (A)*
10 *and shall submit its views on the relative scientific and*
11 *clinical merit of each such proposal to that official.*

12 “(D) *The panel shall not be subject to the Federal Ad-*
13 *visory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).*

14 “(c) *Clinical and scientific investigation activities at*
15 *each center may compete for the award of funding from*
16 *amounts appropriated for the Department of Veterans Af-*
17 *fairs medical and prosthetics research account and shall re-*
18 *ceive priority in the award of funding from such account*
19 *insofar as funds are awarded to projects and activities re-*
20 *lating to mental illness.*

21 “(d) *The Under Secretary for Health shall ensure that*
22 *at least three centers designated under subsection (b)(1)(A)*
23 *emphasize research into means of improving the quality of*
24 *care for veterans suffering from mental illness through the*

1 *development of community-based alternatives to institu-*
2 *tional treatment for such illness.*

3 “(e) *The Under Secretary for Health shall ensure that*
4 *useful information produced by the research, education and*
5 *training, and clinical activities of the centers established*
6 *under subsection (b)(1) is disseminated throughout the Vet-*
7 *erans Health Administration through publications and*
8 *through programs of continuing medical and related edu-*
9 *cation provided through regional medical education centers*
10 *under subchapter VI of chapter 74 of this title and through*
11 *other means.*

12 “(f) *The official within the Central Office of the Veter-*
13 *ans Health Administration responsible for mental health*
14 *and behavioral sciences matters shall be responsible for su-*
15 *pervising the operation of the centers established pursuant*
16 *to subsection (b)(1).*

17 “(g)(1) *There are authorized to be appropriated for the*
18 *Department of Veterans Affairs for the basic support of the*
19 *research and education and training activities of the centers*
20 *established pursuant to subsection (b)(1) the following:*

21 “(A) *\$3,125,000 for fiscal year 1994.*

22 “(B) *\$6,250,000 for each of fiscal years 1995*
23 *through 1997.*

24 “(2) *In addition to the funds available under the au-*
25 *thorization of appropriations in paragraph (1), the Under*

1 *Secretary for Health shall allocate to such centers from*
 2 *other funds appropriated generally for the Department of*
 3 *Veterans Affairs medical care account and the Department*
 4 *of Veterans Affairs medical and prosthetics research account*
 5 *such amounts as the Under Secretary for Health determines*
 6 *appropriate in order to carry out the purposes of this sec-*
 7 *tion.”.*

8 (b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—*The table of sections at*
 9 *the beginning of chapter 73 of such title is amended by add-*
 10 *ing at the end of the matter relating to subchapter II the*
 11 *following:*

“7319. Mental illness research, education, and clinical centers.”.

12 (c) *REPORTS.*—*Not later than February 1 of each of*
 13 *1995, 1996, and 1997, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs*
 14 *shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the*
 15 *Senate and House of Representatives a report on the status*
 16 *and activities during the previous fiscal year of the mental*
 17 *illness, research, education, and clinical centers established*
 18 *pursuant to section 7319 of title 38, United States Code*
 19 *(as added by subsection (a)). Each such report shall contain*
 20 *the following:*

21 (1) *A description of—*

22 (A) *the activities carried out at each center*
 23 *and the funding provided for such activities;*

24 (B) *the advances made at each center in re-*
 25 *search, education and training, and clinical ac-*

1 *tivities relating to mental illness in veterans;*
2 *and*

3 *(C) the actions taken by the Under Sec-*
4 *retary for Health pursuant to subsection (d) of*
5 *such section (as so added) to disseminate useful*
6 *information derived from such activities through-*
7 *out the Veterans Health Administration.*

8 *(2) The Secretary's evaluations of the effective-*
9 *ness of the centers in fulfilling the purposes of the cen-*
10 *ters.*

11 *(d) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 7314(d)(1) of*
12 *such title is amended by striking out “the Chief Medical*
13 *Director” and inserting in lieu thereof “the Under Sec-*
14 *retary for Health”.*