

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1754

To require that a portion of the amounts made available for housing programs for the homeless be used for activities designed to serve primarily homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 3, 1997

Mr. METCALF (for himself and Mr. STUMP) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services

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## A BILL

To require that a portion of the amounts made available for housing programs for the homeless be used for activities designed to serve primarily 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 “Robert Stodola Home-  
5        less Veterans Assistance Act”.

6        **SEC. 2. DEFINITION.**

7        (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title IV of the Stew-  
8        art B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.

1 11361 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the follow-  
2 ing new section:

3 **“SEC. 402. DEFINITION OF VETERAN.**

4 “For purposes of this title, the term ‘veteran’ has the  
5 meaning given such term in section 101 of title 38, United  
6 States Code.”.

7 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
8 in section 101(b) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless  
9 Assistance Act is amended by inserting after the item re-  
10 lating to section 401 the following new item:

“Sec. 402. Definition of veteran.”.

11 **SEC. 3. EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANTS PROGRAM.**

12 Section 413 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless  
13 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11373) is amended by adding  
14 at the end the following new subsection:

15 “(f) VETERANS’ SHARE.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each metropolitan city,  
17 urban county, State, and Indian tribe for which as-  
18 sistance under this subtitle is provided shall ensure  
19 that not less than 20 percent of the total amount re-  
20 ceived by the city, county, State, or tribe in each fis-  
21 cal year shall be used for eligible activities designed  
22 to serve primarily homeless persons who are veter-  
23 ans. Such activities shall, to the extent possible, be  
24 integrated and coordinated with services made avail-  
25 able by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

1           “(2) EXCEPTION.—Upon the request of a met-  
2           ropolitan city, urban county, State, or Indian tribe,  
3           the Secretary may, with respect to a fiscal year,  
4           waive the requirement under paragraph (1) or re-  
5           duce the percentage under such paragraph for the  
6           city, county, State, or tribe if the city, county, State,  
7           or tribe demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Sec-  
8           retary, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs con-  
9           curs in the determination, that but for such waiver  
10          or reduction amounts of assistance under this sub-  
11          title for the city, county, State, or tribe will remain  
12          unused for an unreasonable period of time.

13           “(3) REPORTS BY GRANTEEES.—Each metropoli-  
14          tan city, urban county, State, and Indian tribe for  
15          which assistance under this subtitle is provided for  
16          a fiscal year shall submit a report to the Secretary  
17          and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for such fiscal  
18          year describing each project and activity funded with  
19          such assistance that is designed to serve primarily  
20          homeless persons who are veterans, the location of  
21          the project or activity, and the amount of such as-  
22          sistance provided for the project or activity.”.

1 **SEC. 4. SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM.**

2 (a) SELECTION CRITERIA.—Section 426(b) of the  
3 Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
4 11386(b)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (6) by striking “and” at the  
6 end;

7 (2) by redesignating paragraph (7) as para-  
8 graph (8); and

9 (3) by inserting after paragraph (6) the follow-  
10 ing new paragraph:

11 “(7) such factors as the Secretary, after con-  
12 sultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,  
13 considers necessary to ensure compliance with the  
14 requirements under section 429(b)(4); and”.

15 (b) VETERANS’ SHARE.—Section 429(b) of the Stew-  
16 art B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
17 11389(b)) is amended—

18 (1) in paragraph (2) by striking “and” at the  
19 end;

20 (2) in paragraph (3) by striking the period at  
21 the end and inserting “; and”; and

22 (3) by adding at the end the following new  
23 paragraph:

24 “(4) not less than 20 percent shall be allocated  
25 for use only for projects and supportive services de-

1 signed to serve primarily homeless persons who are  
2 veterans, except that—

3 “(A) the Secretary shall make assistance  
4 available with such amounts only after consulta-  
5 tion with and upon the concurrence of the Sec-  
6 retary of Veterans Affairs;

7 “(B) projects and services provided with  
8 amounts allocated under this paragraph shall,  
9 to the extent possible, be integrated and coordi-  
10 nated with services made available by the De-  
11 partment of Veterans Affairs; and

12 “(C) the Secretary may, with respect to a  
13 fiscal year, waive the requirement to reserve  
14 amounts under this paragraph or reduce the  
15 percentage so reserved if the Secretary deter-  
16 mines (based on approvable applications sub-  
17 mitted for assistance under this subtitle), and  
18 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs concurs in the  
19 determination, that but for such waiver or re-  
20 duction amounts appropriated for such fiscal  
21 year to carry out this subtitle will remain un-  
22 used for an unreasonable period of time.”.

23 (c) REPORT.—Section 426(c)(4) of the Stewart B.  
24 McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
25 11386(c)(4)) is amended by inserting before the semicolon

1 at the end the following: “, which shall include, in the case  
2 of an applicant carrying out a project designed to serve  
3 primarily homeless persons who are veterans, reporting to  
4 the Secretary and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for  
5 such fiscal year regarding the activities funded during  
6 such fiscal year with such assistance that are designed to  
7 serve primarily homeless persons who are veterans, the lo-  
8 cation of the project and of such activities, and the  
9 amount of such assistance provided for the project or such  
10 activities.”.

11 **SEC. 5. SAFE HAVENS FOR HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS DEM-**  
12 **ONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

13 (a) SELECTION CRITERIA.—Section 434(c) of the  
14 Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
15 11394(c)) is amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (6) by striking “and” at the  
17 end;

18 (2) by redesignating paragraph (7) as para-  
19 graph (8); and

20 (3) by inserting after paragraph (6) the follow-  
21 ing new paragraph:

22 “(7) such factors as the Secretary, after con-  
23 sultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,  
24 considers necessary to ensure compliance with the  
25 requirements under subsection (e); and”.

1 (b) VETERANS' SHARE.—Section 434 of the Stewart  
2 B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act is amended by add-  
3 ing at the end the following new subsection:

4 “(e) VETERANS' SHARE.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In making grants to appli-  
6 cants under this subtitle, the Secretary shall ensure  
7 that not less than 20 percent of the amount made  
8 available for each fiscal year to carry out this sub-  
9 title is used for eligible activities designed to serve  
10 primarily homeless persons who are veterans, which  
11 activities shall, to the extent possible, be integrated  
12 and coordinated with services made available by the  
13 Department of Veterans Affairs. A grant shall be  
14 considered to comply with the requirement under  
15 preceding sentence only if the Secretary consults  
16 with and obtains the concurrence of the Secretary of  
17 Veterans Affairs in making the grant.

18 “(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may, with re-  
19 spect to a fiscal year, waive the requirement under  
20 paragraph (1) or reduce the percentage under such  
21 paragraph if the Secretary determines (based on ap-  
22 provable applications submitted for assistance under  
23 this subtitle), and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
24 concurs in the determination, that but for such waiv-  
25 er or reduction amounts made available for such fis-

1 cal year to carry out this subtitle will remain unused  
2 for an unreasonable period of time.

3 “(3) REPORTS BY RECIPIENTS.—Each recipient  
4 provided assistance under this subtitle for a fiscal  
5 year shall submit a report to the Secretary and the  
6 Secretary of Veterans Affairs for such fiscal year de-  
7 scribing each facility and activity funded with such  
8 assistance that is designed to serve primarily home-  
9 less persons who are veterans, the location of the fa-  
10 cility or activity, and the amount of such assistance  
11 provided for the facility or activity.”

12 **SEC. 6. SECTION 8 PROGRAM FOR SINGLE ROOM OCCU-**  
13 **PANCY DWELLINGS.**

14 (a) SELECTION CRITERIA.—Section 441(c) of the  
15 Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
16 11401(c)) is amended by striking the period at the end  
17 of the first sentence and inserting the following: “, while  
18 ensuring compliance with the requirements under sub-  
19 section (k). The Secretary, after consultation with the Sec-  
20 retary of Veterans Affairs, shall establish any criteria for  
21 such competition necessary to ensure compliance with the  
22 requirements under subsection (k).”

23 (b) VETERANS’ SHARE.—Section 441 of the Stewart  
24 B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act is amended by add-  
25 ing at the end the following new subsection:



1 “(k) VETERANS’ SHARE.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In allocating amounts to  
3 applicants under this section, the Secretary shall en-  
4 sure that not less than 20 percent of the amounts  
5 made available for each fiscal year to carry out this  
6 section are used for assistance designed to serve pri-  
7 marily homeless persons who are veterans, which as-  
8 sistance shall, to the extent possible, be integrated  
9 and coordinated with services made available by the  
10 Department of Veterans Affairs. Assistance shall be  
11 considered to comply with the requirement under  
12 preceding sentence only if the Secretary consults  
13 with and obtains the concurrence of the Secretary of  
14 Veterans Affairs in allocating the assistance.

15 “(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may, with re-  
16 spect to a fiscal year, waive the requirement under  
17 paragraph (1) or reduce the percentage under such  
18 paragraph if the Secretary determines (based on ap-  
19 provable applications submitted for assistance under  
20 this section), and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
21 concurs in the determination, that but for such waiv-  
22 er or reduction amounts made available for such fis-  
23 cal year to carry out this section will remain unused  
24 for an unreasonable period of time.

1           “(3) REPORTS BY RECIPIENTS.—Each appli-  
2           cant that receives assistance under this section for  
3           a fiscal year shall submit a report to the Secretary  
4           and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for such fiscal  
5           year describing each dwelling unit occupied by a  
6           homeless person who is a veteran that is assisted  
7           with such assistance, the location of the dwelling  
8           unit, and the amount of such assistance provided for  
9           the dwelling unit.”.

10 **SEC. 7. SHELTER PLUS CARE PROGRAM.**

11           (a) SELECTION CRITERIA.—Section 455(a) of the  
12 Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
13 11403d(a)) is amended—

14           (1) in paragraph (8) by striking “and” at the  
15           end;

16           (2) by redesignating paragraph (9) as para-  
17           graph (10); and

18           (3) by inserting after paragraph (8) the follow-  
19           ing new paragraph:

20           “(9) such factors as the Secretary, after con-  
21           sultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,  
22           considers necessary to ensure compliance with the  
23           requirements under subsection (d); and”.

1 (b) VETERANS' SHARE.—Section 455 of the Stewart  
2 B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act is amended by add-  
3 ing at the end the following new subsection:

4 “(d) VETERANS' SHARE.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In providing assistance to  
6 applicants under this subtitle, the Secretary shall en-  
7 sure that not less than 20 percent of the amount  
8 made available for each fiscal year to carry out this  
9 subtitle is used for rental assistance designed to  
10 serve primarily homeless persons who are veterans,  
11 which assistance shall, to the extent possible, be in-  
12 tegrated and coordinated with services made avail-  
13 able by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Assist-  
14 ance shall be considered to comply with the require-  
15 ment under preceding sentence only if the Secretary  
16 consults with and obtains the concurrence of the  
17 Secretary of Veterans Affairs in providing the assist-  
18 ance.

19 “(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may, with re-  
20 spect to a fiscal year, waive the requirement under  
21 paragraph (1) or reduce the percentage under such  
22 paragraph if the Secretary determines (based on ap-  
23 provable applications submitted for assistance under  
24 this subtitle), and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
25 concurs in the determination, that but for such waiv-

1 er or reduction amounts made available for such fis-  
2 cal year to carry out this subtitle will remain unused  
3 for an unreasonable period of time.

4 “(3) REPORTS BY RECIPIENTS.—Each recipient  
5 provided assistance under this subtitle for a fiscal  
6 year shall submit a report to the Secretary and the  
7 Secretary of Veterans Affairs for such fiscal year de-  
8 scribing assistance funded with such amounts that is  
9 designed to serve primarily homeless persons who  
10 are veterans, the location of the housing or activity  
11 so assisted, and the amount of such assistance pro-  
12 vided for the housing or activity.”.

13 **SEC. 8. RURAL HOMELESSNESS GRANT PROGRAM.**

14 Section 491(c) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless  
15 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11408(c)) is amended by add-  
16 ing at the end the following new paragraph:

17 “(4) VETERANS’ SHARE.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In awarding grants  
19 under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the Sec-  
20 retary shall ensure that not less than 20 per-  
21 cent of the amount made available for the fiscal  
22 year for such grants is used for eligible activi-  
23 ties under subsection (b) designed to serve pri-  
24 marily homeless persons who are veterans,  
25 which activities shall, to the extent possible, be

1 integrated and coordinated with services made  
2 available by the Department of Veterans Af-  
3 fairs. A grant shall be considered to comply  
4 with the requirement under preceding sentence  
5 only if the Secretary consults with and obtains  
6 the concurrence of the Secretary of Veterans  
7 Affairs in providing the grant.

8 “(B) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may,  
9 with respect to a fiscal year, waive the require-  
10 ment under subparagraph (A) or reduce the  
11 percentage under such subparagraph if the Sec-  
12 retary determines (based on approvable applica-  
13 tions submitted for grants under this section),  
14 and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs concurs  
15 in the determination, that but for such waiver  
16 or reduction amounts made available for such  
17 fiscal year to carry out this section will remain  
18 unused for an unreasonable period of time.

19 “(C) REPORTS BY RECIPIENTS.—Each eli-  
20 gible organization receiving a grant under this  
21 section for a fiscal year shall submit a report to  
22 the Secretary and the Secretary of Veterans Af-  
23 fairs for such fiscal year describing assistance  
24 funded with such amounts that is designed to  
25 serve primarily homeless persons who are veter-

1           ans, the location of the housing or activities so  
2           assisted, and the amount of such amounts pro-  
3           vided for the housing or activities.”.

4 **SEC. 9. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ANNUAL REPORTS.**

5           (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title IV of the Stew-  
6 art B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C  
7 11361), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is further  
8 amended by adding at the end the following new section:

9 **“SEC. 403. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND REPORTS RE-**  
10 **GARDING ACTIVITIES BENEFITING HOME-**  
11 **LESS VETERANS.**

12           “(a) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary, after  
13 consultation with and upon the concurrence of the Sec-  
14 retary of Veterans Affairs, shall carry out a program to  
15 provide technical advice, training, and outreach activities  
16 necessary to facilitate and encourage the funding, with  
17 grant amounts under this title, of projects and activities  
18 designed to serve primarily homeless persons who are vet-  
19 erans. The program shall include—

20           “(1) providing notice of availability of amounts  
21 set-aside under this title for eligible activities de-  
22 signed to serve primarily homeless persons who are  
23 veterans to agencies and organizations who are  
24 qualified or could qualify as grantees for such  
25 amounts and project sponsors for such activities;

1           “(2) increasing participation, by agencies and  
2 organizations interested in carrying out eligible ac-  
3 tivities designed to serve primarily homeless persons  
4 who are veterans, in developing plans required under  
5 section 401;

6           “(3) providing assistance to increase the capa-  
7 bility of such agencies and organizations in develop-  
8 ing plans and applications for grants under this title  
9 and activities funded with such grant amounts (in-  
10 cluding providing assistance in integrating and co-  
11 ordinating such activities with services made avail-  
12 able by the Department of Veterans Affairs).

13       “(b) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 6 months  
14 after the conclusion of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall  
15 submit a report to the Congress and the Secretary of Vet-  
16 erans Affairs regarding activities and assistance provided  
17 with grant amounts under this title that are designed to  
18 serve primarily homeless persons who are veterans. The  
19 report shall analyze the extent of compliance with the re-  
20 quirements under this title to reserve amounts for such  
21 activities and assistance and shall summarize the reports  
22 regarding such assistance and activities submitted under  
23 sections 413(f)(3), 426(c)(4), 434(e)(3), 441(k)(3),  
24 455(d)(3), and 491(e)(4)(C) by grant recipients. After  
25 submitting each report under this subsection, the Sec-

1 retary shall consult with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
2 regarding any recommendations of such Secretary in re-  
3 sponse to the report.”.

4 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
5 in section 101(b) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless  
6 Assistance Act is amended by inserting after the item re-  
7 lating to section 402 (as added by section 2(b) of this Act)  
8 the following new item:

“Sec. 403. Technical assistance and reports regarding activities benefiting  
homeless veterans.”.

○