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[Report No. 107-82]

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve programs for homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 6, 2001

Mr. WELLSTONE (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DAYTON, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. REID, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. CORZINE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

OCTOBER 11, 2001

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 improve programs 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Heather French Henry Homeless Veterans Assistance
4 Act”.

5 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
6 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings; definitions.
- Sec. 3. National goal to end homelessness among veterans.
- Sec. 4. Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans.
- Sec. 5. Annual meeting requirement for Interagency Council on the Homeless.
- Sec. 6. Evaluation of homeless programs.
- Sec. 7. Changes in veterans equitable resource allocation methodology.
- Sec. 8. Per diem payments for furnishing services to homeless veterans.
- Sec. 9. Grant program for homeless veterans with special needs.
- Sec. 10. Coordination of outreach services for veterans at risk of homelessness.
- Sec. 11. Treatment trials in integrated mental health services delivery.
- Sec. 12. Dental care.
- Sec. 13. Programmatic expansions.
- Sec. 14. Various authorities.
- Sec. 15. Life safety code for grant and per diem providers.
- Sec. 16. Transitional assistance grants pilot program.
- Sec. 17. Assistance for grant applications.
- Sec. 18. Home loan program for manufactured housing.
- Sec. 19. Extension of homeless veterans reintegration program.
- Sec. 20. Use of real property.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; DEFINITIONS.**

8 (a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following find-
9 ings:

10 (1) On the field of battle, the members of the
11 Armed Forces who defend the Nation are honor-
12 bound to leave no one behind and, likewise, the Na-
13 tion is honor-bound to leave no veteran behind.

14 (2) The Department of Veterans Affairs report
15 known as the Community Homeless Assessment,
16 Local Education, and Networking Groups for Vet-

1 erans (CHALENG) assessment, issued in May
2 2000, reports that during 1999 there were an esti-
3 mated ~~344,983~~ homeless veterans, an increase of 34
4 percent above the 1998 estimate of 256,872 home-
5 less veterans.

6 (3) Male veterans are more likely to be home-
7 less than their nonveteran peers. Although veterans
8 constitute only 13 percent of the general male popu-
9 lation, 23 percent of the homeless male population
10 are veterans.

11 (4) Homelessness among veterans is persistent
12 despite unprecedented economic growth and job cre-
13 ation and general prosperity.

14 (5) While there are many effective programs
15 that assist homeless veterans to again become pro-
16 ductive and self-sufficient members of society, cur-
17 rent resources provided to such programs and other
18 activities that assist homeless veterans are inad-
19 equate to provide all needed essential services, as-
20 sistance, and support to homeless veterans.

21 (6) If current programs to assist homeless vet-
22 erans are fully maintained but not expanded, vet-
23 erans will experience as many as a billion nights of
24 homelessness during the next decade.

1 (7) The CHALENG assessment referred to in
2 paragraph (2) reports—

3 (A) that Department of Veterans Affairs
4 and community providers were responsible for
5 establishing almost 500 beds for homeless vet-
6 erans during 2000, including emergency, transi-
7 tional, and permanent beds; and

8 (B) that there is a need for about 45,724
9 additional beds to meet current needs of home-
10 less veterans.

11 (8) As of February 28, 2001, the Congressional
12 Budget Office forecasts a Federal budget surplus of
13 \$313,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2002 and budget
14 surpluses totaling more than \$5,610,000,000,000
15 over the next 10 years.

16 (9) At least \$750,000,000 will be required to
17 establish the 45,724 additional new beds now needed
18 by homeless veterans, according to an informal De-
19 partment of Veterans Affairs cost estimate.

20 (10) Even if the Department of Veterans Af-
21 fairs and its partners created 2,000 additional beds
22 per year for homeless veterans (roughly quadrupling
23 the number of such beds they currently plan to open
24 annually), it would still take more than two decades

1 to provide the necessary additional beds to meet the
2 current needs of homeless veterans.

3 (11) Nearly four decades ago, the Nation estab-
4 lished a goal of sending a man to the moon and re-
5 turning him safely to earth within a decade and ac-
6 complished that goal, and the Nation can do no less
7 to end homelessness among the Nation's veterans.

8 (b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this Act:

9 (1) The term “homeless veteran” means a vet-
10 eran who—

11 (A) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate
12 nighttime residence; or

13 (B) has a primary nighttime residence that
14 is—

15 (i) a supervised publicly or privately
16 operated shelter designed to provide tem-
17 porary living accommodations (including
18 welfare hotels, congregate shelters, grant
19 per diem shelters and transitional housing
20 for the mentally ill);

21 (ii) an institution that provides a tem-
22 porary residence for individuals intended to
23 be institutionalized; or

1 (iii) a public or private place not de-
 2 signed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular
 3 sleeping accommodation for human beings.

4 (2) The term “grant and per diem provider”
 5 means an entity in receipt of a grant under section
 6 3 or 4 of the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive
 7 Service Programs Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C. 7721
 8 note).

9 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL GOAL TO END HOMELESSNESS AMONG**
 10 **VETERANS.**

11 (a) NATIONAL GOAL.—Congress hereby declares it to
 12 be a national goal to end homelessness among veterans
 13 within a decade.

14 (b) COOPERATIVE EFFORTS ENCOURAGED.—Con-
 15 gress hereby encourages all departments and agencies of
 16 Federal, State, and local governments, quasi-governmental
 17 organizations, private and public sector entities, including
 18 community-based organizations, and individuals to work
 19 cooperatively to end homelessness among veterans within
 20 a decade.

21 **SEC. 4. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS VETERANS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of title 38, United
 23 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 24 lowing new section:

1 **“§ 546. Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans**

2 “(a)(1) There is established in the Department the
3 Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans (hereinafter in
4 this section referred to as the ‘Committee’).

5 “(2) The Committee shall consist of not more than
6 15 members appointed by the Secretary from among the
7 following:

8 “(A) Veterans service organizations.

9 “(B) Advocates of homeless veterans and other
10 homeless individuals.

11 “(C) Community-based providers of services to
12 homeless individuals.

13 “(D) Previously homeless veterans.

14 “(E) State veterans affairs officials.

15 “(F) Experts in the treatment of individuals
16 with mental illness.

17 “(G) Experts in the treatment of substance use
18 disorders.

19 “(H) Experts in the development of permanent
20 housing alternatives for lower income populations.

21 “(I) Experts in vocational rehabilitation.

22 “(J) Such other organizations or groups as the
23 Secretary considers appropriate.

24 “(3) The Committee shall include, as ex officio
25 members—

1 “(A) the Secretary of Labor (or a representa-
2 tive of the Secretary selected after consultation with
3 the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans’ Em-
4 ployment and Training);

5 “(B) the Secretary of Defense (or a representa-
6 tive of the Secretary);

7 “(C) the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
8 ices (or a representative of the Secretary); and

9 “(D) the Secretary of Housing and Urban De-
10 velopment (or a representative of the Secretary).

11 “(4) The Secretary shall determine the terms of serv-
12 ice and pay and allowances of the members of the Com-
13 mittee, except that a term of service may not exceed three
14 years. The Secretary may reappoint any member for addi-
15 tional terms of service.

16 “(b)(1) The Secretary shall, on a regular basis, con-
17 sult with and seek the advice of the Committee with re-
18 >spect to the provision by the Department of benefits and
19 services to homeless veterans.

20 “(2)(A) In providing advice to the Secretary under
21 this subsection, the Committee shall—

22 “(i) assemble and review information relating to
23 the needs of homeless veterans;

24 “(ii) provide an on-going assessment of the ef-
25 fectiveness of the policies, organizational structures,

1 and services of the Department in assisting homeless
2 veterans; and

3 ~~“(iii) provide on-going advice on the most ap-~~
4 ~~propriate means of providing assistance to homeless~~
5 ~~veterans.~~

6 ~~“(3) The Committee shall—~~

7 ~~“(A) review the continuum of services provided~~
8 ~~by the Department directly or by contract in order~~
9 ~~to define cross-cutting issues and to improve coordi-~~
10 ~~nation of all services in the Department that address~~
11 ~~the special needs of homeless veterans;~~

12 ~~“(B) identify (through the annual assessments~~
13 ~~under section 1774 of this title and other available~~
14 ~~resources) gaps in programs of the Department in~~
15 ~~servicing homeless veterans, including identification of~~
16 ~~geographic areas with unmet needs, and provide rec-~~
17 ~~ommendations to address those program gaps;~~

18 ~~“(C) identify gaps in existing information sys-~~
19 ~~tems on homeless veterans, both within and outside~~
20 ~~the Department, and provide recommendations~~
21 ~~about redressing problems in data collection;~~

22 ~~“(D) identify barriers under existing laws and~~
23 ~~policies to effective coordination by the Department~~
24 ~~with other Federal agencies and with State and local~~
25 ~~agencies addressing homeless populations;~~

1 “(E) identify opportunities for enhanced liaison
2 by the Department with nongovernmental organiza-
3 tions and individual groups addressing homeless
4 populations;

5 “(F) with appropriate officials of the Depart-
6 ment designated by the Secretary, participate with
7 the Interagency Council on the Homeless under title
8 II of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
9 (42 U.S.C. 11311 et seq.);

10 “(G) recommend appropriate funding levels for
11 specialized programs for homeless veterans provided
12 or funded by the Department;

13 “(H) recommend appropriate placement options
14 for veterans who, because of advanced age, frailty,
15 or severe mental illness, may not be appropriate can-
16 didates for vocational rehabilitation or independent
17 living; and

18 “(I) perform such other functions as the Sec-
19 retary may direct.

20 “(e)(1) Not later than March 31 of each year, the
21 Committee shall submit to the Secretary a report on the
22 programs and activities of the Department that relate to
23 homeless veterans. Each such report shall include—

24 “(A) an assessment of the needs of homeless
25 veterans;

1 ~~“(B) a review of the programs and activities of~~
2 ~~the Department designed to meet such needs;~~

3 ~~“(C) a review of the activities of the Committee;~~
4 ~~and~~

5 ~~“(D) such recommendations (including rec-~~
6 ~~ommendations for administrative and legislative ac-~~
7 ~~tion) as the Committee considers appropriate.~~

8 ~~“(2) Not later than 90 days after the receipt of a~~
9 ~~report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall transmit~~
10 ~~to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and~~
11 ~~House of Representatives a copy of the report, together~~
12 ~~with any comments and recommendations concerning the~~
13 ~~report that the Secretary considers appropriate.~~

14 ~~“(3) The Committee may also submit to the Sec-~~
15 ~~retary such other reports and recommendations as the~~
16 ~~Committee considers appropriate.~~

17 ~~“(4) The Secretary shall submit with each annual re-~~
18 ~~port submitted to Congress pursuant to section 529 of this~~
19 ~~title a summary of all reports and recommendations of the~~
20 ~~Committee submitted to the Secretary since the previous~~
21 ~~annual report of the Secretary submitted pursuant to that~~
22 ~~section.~~

23 ~~“(d)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the pro-~~
24 ~~visions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C.~~

1 App.) shall apply to the activities of the Committee under
2 this section.

3 “(2) Section 14 of such Act shall not apply to the
4 Committee.”.

5 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
6 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
7 at the end the following new item:

“546. Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans.”.

8 **SEC. 5. MEETINGS OF INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON THE**
9 **HOMELESS.**

10 Section 202(c) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless As-
11 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11312(c)) is amended to read as
12 follows:

13 “(c) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet at the call
14 of its Chairperson or a majority of its members, but not
15 less often than annually.”.

16 **SEC. 6. EVALUATION OF HOMELESS PROGRAMS.**

17 (a) EVALUATION CENTERS.—The Secretary of Vet-
18 erans Affairs shall support the continuation within the De-
19 partment of Veterans Affairs of at least one center for
20 evaluation to monitor the structure, process, and outcome
21 of programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs that
22 address homeless veterans.

23 (b) ANNUAL REPORT ON HEALTH CARE.—The Sec-
24 retary shall submit to Congress on an annual basis a re-
25 port on programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs

1 addressing health care needs of homeless veterans. The
2 Secretary shall include in each such report the following:

3 (1) Information about expenditures, costs, and
4 workload under the Department of Veterans Affairs
5 program known as the Health Care for Homeless
6 Veterans program (HCHV).

7 (2) Information about the veterans contacted
8 through that program.

9 (3) Information about processes under that pro-
10 gram.

11 (4) Information about program treatment out-
12 comes under that program.

13 (5) Information about supported housing pro-
14 grams.

15 (6) Information about the Department's grant
16 and per diem provider program.

17 (7) Other information the Secretary considers
18 relevant in assessing the program.

19 (c) ANNUAL PROGRAM ASSESSMENT.—Section
20 1774(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “annual”
22 after “to make an”; and

23 (2) by adding at the end the following new
24 paragraph:

1 “(6) The Secretary shall review each annual assess-
2 ment under this subsection, and shall consolidate the find-
3 ings and conclusions of those assessments into an annual
4 report which the Secretary shall submit to Congress.”.

5 **SEC. 7. CHANGES IN VETERANS EQUITABLE RESOURCE AL-**
6 **LOCATION METHODOLOGY.**

7 (a) **ALLOCATION CATEGORIES.**—The Secretary of
8 Veterans Affairs shall assign veterans receiving the fol-
9 lowing services to the resource allocation category des-
10 igned as “complex care” within the Veterans Equitable
11 Resource Allocation system:

12 (1) Care provided to veterans enrolled in the
13 Department of Veterans Affairs program for Mental
14 Health Intensive Community Case Management.

15 (2) Continuous care in homeless chronically
16 mentally ill veterans programs.

17 (3) Continuous care within specialized pro-
18 grams provided to veterans who have been diagnosed
19 with both serious chronic mental illness and sub-
20 stance use disorders.

21 (4) Continuous therapy combined with sheltered
22 housing provided to veterans in specialized treat-
23 ment for substance use disorders.

1 (5) Specialized therapies provided to veterans
2 with post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD), includ-
3 ing therapies provided by or under the following:

4 (A) Specialized outpatient PTSD pro-
5 grams.

6 (B) PTSD clinical teams.

7 (C) Women veterans stress disorder treat-
8 ment teams.

9 (D) Substance abuse disorder PTSD
10 teams.

11 (b) TREATMENT OF FUNDS FOR NEW PROGRAMS
12 FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.—The Secretary shall ensure
13 that funds for any new program for homeless veterans car-
14 ried out through a Department health care facility are des-
15 ignated for the first three years of operation of that pro-
16 gram as a special purpose program for which funds are
17 not allocated through the Veterans Equitable Resource Al-
18 location system.

19 **SEC. 8. PER DIEM PAYMENTS FOR FURNISHING SERVICES**
20 **TO HOMELESS VETERANS.**

21 (a) INCREASE IN RATE OF PER DIEM PAYMENTS.—
22 Section 4(a) of the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive
23 Service Programs Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C. 7721 note) is
24 amended by striking “at such rates” and all that follows
25 through “homeless veteran—” and inserting the following:

1 “at the same rates as the rates authorized for State homes
 2 for domiciliary care provided under section 1741 of title
 3 38, United States Code, for services furnished to homeless
 4 veterans—”.

5 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
 6 subsection (a) shall take effect on the first day of the first
 7 fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of
 8 this Act.

9 **SEC. 9. GRANT PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS WITH**
 10 **SPECIAL NEEDS.**

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans
 12 Affairs shall carry out a program to make grants to health
 13 care facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and
 14 to grant and per diem providers in order to encourage de-
 15 velopment by those facilities and providers of programs
 16 targeted at meeting special needs within the population
 17 of homeless veterans.

18 (b) HOMELESS VETERANS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.—
 19 For purposes of this section, homeless veterans with spe-
 20 cial needs include homeless veterans who—

21 (1) are women;

22 (2) are 50 years of age or older;

23 (3) are substance abusers;

24 (4) are persons with post-traumatic stress dis-
 25 order;

- 1 ~~(5) are terminally ill;~~
2 ~~(6) are chronically mentally ill; or~~
3 ~~(7) have care of minor dependents or other~~
4 ~~family members.~~

5 ~~(c) STUDY OF OUTCOME EFFECTIVENESS.—The Sec-~~
6 ~~retary shall conduct a study of the effectiveness of the~~
7 ~~grant program in meeting the needs of homeless veterans.~~
8 ~~As part of the study, the Secretary shall compare the re-~~
9 ~~sults of programs carried out in the grant program under~~
10 ~~this section in terms of veterans' satisfaction, health sta-~~
11 ~~tus, reduction in addiction severity, housing, and encour-~~
12 ~~agement of productive activity with results for similar vet-~~
13 ~~erans in programs of the Department or of grant and per~~
14 ~~diem providers that are designed to meet the general needs~~
15 ~~of homeless veterans.~~

16 ~~(d) FUNDING.—From amounts appropriated to the~~
17 ~~Department of Veterans Affairs for "Medical Care" for~~
18 ~~each of fiscal years 2003, 2004, and 2005, \$5,000,000~~
19 ~~shall be available for purposes of the program under this~~
20 ~~section. Grants under this section to a health care facility~~
21 ~~of the Department or a grant and per diem provider shall~~
22 ~~be treated in the manner provided in section 7(b).~~

1 **SEC. 10. COORDINATION OF OUTREACH SERVICES FOR**
2 **VETERANS AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS.**

3 (a) **OUTREACH PLAN.**—The Secretary of Veterans
4 Affairs, acting through the Under Secretary for Health,
5 shall provide for appropriate officials of the Mental Health
6 Service and the Readjustment Counseling Service of the
7 Veterans Health Administration to initiate a coordinated
8 plan for joint outreach to veterans at risk of homelessness,
9 including particularly veterans who are being discharged
10 from institutions (including discharges from inpatient psy-
11 chiatric care, substance abuse treatment programs, and
12 penal institutions).

13 (b) **MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.**—The plan under
14 subsection (a) shall include the following:

15 (1) Strategies to identify and collaborate with
16 external entities used by veterans who have not tra-
17 ditionally used Department of Veterans Affairs serv-
18 ices to further outreach efforts.

19 (2) Strategies to ensure that mentoring pro-
20 grams, recovery support groups, and other appro-
21 priate support networks are optimally available to
22 veterans.

23 (3) Appropriate programs or referrals to family
24 support programs.

25 (4) Means to increase access to case manage-
26 ment services.

1 (5) Plans for making additional employment
2 services accessible to veterans.

3 (6) Appropriate referral sources for mental
4 health and substance abuse services.

5 (e) COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIPS.—The plan under
6 subsection (a) shall identify strategies for the Department
7 to enter into formal cooperative relationships with entities
8 outside the Department of Veterans Affairs to facilitate
9 making services and resources optimally available to vet-
10 erans.

11 (d) REVIEW OF PLAN.—The Secretary shall submit
12 the plan under subsection (a) to the Advisory Committee
13 on Homeless Veterans for its review and consultation.

14 (e) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—Not later than two
15 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
16 retary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs
17 of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on
18 the Secretary's plan under subsection (a), including goals
19 and timelines for implementation of the plan for particular
20 facilities and service networks.

21 (f) OUTREACH PROGRAM.—(1) The Secretary shall
22 carry out an outreach program to provide information to
23 homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.
24 The program shall include at a minimum—

1 (A) provision of information about benefits
2 available to eligible veterans from the Department;
3 and

4 (B) contact information for local Department
5 facilities, including medical facilities, regional offices,
6 and veterans centers.

7 (2) In developing and carrying out the program under
8 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, to the extent prac-
9 ticable, consult with appropriate public and private organi-
10 zations, including the Bureau of Prisons, State social serv-
11 ice agencies, the Department of Defense, and mental
12 health, veterans, and homeless advocates—

13 (A) for assistance in identifying and contacting
14 veterans who are homeless or at risk of homeless-
15 ness;

16 (B) to coordinate appropriate outreach activi-
17 ties with those organizations; and

18 (C) to coordinate services provided to veterans
19 with services provided by those organizations.

20 **SEC. 11. TREATMENT TRIALS IN INTEGRATED MENTAL**
21 **HEALTH SERVICES DELIVERY.**

22 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of Veterans
23 Affairs shall carry out two treatment trials in integrated
24 mental health services delivery. Each such trial shall be
25 carried out at a Department of Veterans Affairs medical

1 center selected by the Secretary for such purpose. The
2 trials shall each be carried out over the same one-year pe-
3 riod.

4 (b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the
5 term “integrated mental health services delivery” means
6 a coordinated and standardized approach to evaluation be-
7 tween mental health and primary health care professionals
8 for enrollment, treatment, and followup of patients who
9 have both mental health disorders (including substance
10 use disorders) and medical conditions.

11 (c) SITE SELECTION CRITERIA.—In reviewing appli-
12 cations from Department medical centers for selection as
13 a site for a treatment trial under this section, the Sec-
14 retary shall consider models that use the following:

15 (1) Standardized criteria for admission and en-
16 rollment as participant or control.

17 (2) Focus on prevention and symptom reduc-
18 tion.

19 (3) Development of a comprehensive, integrated
20 treatment plan.

21 (4) Patient assignment to a team or teams.

22 (5) Management of polypharmacy.

23 (6) Use of evidence-based treatment protocols.

24 (7) Case management between visits.

1 (8) Referral and coordination of appropriate
2 Department or community-based services (including
3 housing if necessary).

4 (9) Ability to maintain and provide outcomes
5 for comparison purposes on veterans with similar di-
6 agnoses and characteristics who are not included in
7 the trial, but who are receiving traditional consult-
8 ative services in the same facility.

9 (d) TREATMENT MODELS TO BE TESTED.—The two
10 treatment trials shall each use one of the following models:

11 (1) Mental health primary care teams.

12 (2) Patient assignment to a mental health pri-
13 mary care team that is linked with the patient's
14 medical primary care team.

15 (e) STUDY OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The Secretary shall
16 compare treatment outcomes (including such outcomes as
17 veterans' satisfaction, health status, treatment compli-
18 ance, patient functionality, reduction in addiction severity
19 as well as service utilization and treatment costs) of the
20 different treatment trials for chronically mentally ill vet-
21 erans who are provided treatment through integrated
22 mental health programs with treatment outcomes for simi-
23 lar chronically mentally ill veterans provided treatment
24 through traditionally consultative relationships.

1 (f) RESULTS.—Not later than 30 months after selec-
2 tion of the two centers under this section, each selected
3 center shall complete measures of treatment outcomes
4 under subsection (e), as well as measures for matched con-
5 trols.

6 (g) MANDATORY AUDIT OF RESULTS.—The Depart-
7 ment of Veterans Affairs Medical Inspector General shall
8 review medical records of participants and controls for
9 both trials to ensure that results are accurate.

10 (h) REPORT AND DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS.—
11 Not later than two years after the date of the enactment
12 of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a re-
13 port setting forth the results of the comparison under sub-
14 section (e) and such recommendations as the Secretary
15 may have. Based upon the Secretary's conclusions, the
16 Secretary shall disseminate the best practices for treat-
17 ment of mentally ill veterans in such manner as the Sec-
18 retary determines appropriate on a nationwide basis.

19 (i) COSTS.—The Secretary may use up to \$2,000,000
20 from funds available to the Secretary for Medical Care for
21 costs for each of the treatment trials. Funds identified by
22 the Secretary for the trials shall remain available until ex-
23 pended.

1 **SEC. 12. DENTAL CARE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section
3 1712(a)(1)(H) of title 38, United States Code, outpatient
4 dental services and treatment of a dental condition or dis-
5 ability of a veteran described in subsection (b) shall be
6 considered to be medically necessary if—

7 (1) the dental services and treatment are nec-
8 essary for the veteran to successfully gain or regain
9 employment;

10 (2) the dental services and treatment are nec-
11 essary to alleviate pain; or

12 (3) the dental services and treatment are nec-
13 essary for treatment of moderate, severe, or severe
14 and complicated gingival and periodontal pathology.

15 (b) ELIGIBLE VETERANS.—Subsection (a) applies to
16 a veteran who is—

17 (1) enrolled for care under section 1705(a) of
18 title 38, United States Code; and

19 (2) receiving care (directly or by contract) in
20 any of the following settings:

21 (A) A domiciliary under section 1710 of
22 such title.

23 (B) A therapeutic residence under section
24 1772 of such title.

1 (C) Community residential care coordi-
2 nated by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
3 under section 1730 of such title.

4 (D) A setting for which the Secretary pro-
5 vides funds for a grant and per diem provider.

6 (E) Any program described in section 7 of
7 this Act.

8 **SEC. 13. PROGRAMMATIC EXPANSIONS.**

9 (a) ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.—The
10 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop standards to
11 ensure that mental health services are available to vet-
12 erans in a manner similar to the manner in which primary
13 care is available to veterans who require services by ensur-
14 ing that each primary care health care facility of the De-
15 partment has a mental health treatment capacity.

16 (b) TRANSITIONAL HOUSING.—Effective October 1,
17 2001, section 12 of the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive
18 Service Programs Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C. 7721 note) is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 **“SEC. 12. FUNDING.**

21 “(a) AMOUNTS FOR GRANT AND PER DIEM PRO-
22 GRAMS.—From amounts appropriated for ‘Medical Care’
23 for any fiscal year, the Secretary shall expend not less
24 than \$55,000,000 (as adjusted from time to time under
25 subsection (b)) to carry out the transitional housing grant

1 and per diem provider programs under sections 3 and 4
2 of this Act.

3 “(b) PERIODIC INCREASES.—The amount in effect
4 under subsection (a) shall be increased for any fiscal year
5 by the overall percentage increase in the Medical Care ac-
6 count for that fiscal year from the preceding fiscal year.”.

7 (c) COMPREHENSIVE HOMELESS SERVICES PRO-
8 GRAM.—(1) The Secretary shall provide for the establish-
9 ment of centers for the provision of comprehensive services
10 to homeless veterans under section 1773(b) of title 38,
11 United States Code, in at least each of the 20 largest met-
12 ropolitan statistical areas.

13 (2) Section 1773(b) of title 38, United States Code,
14 is amended by striking “not fewer than eight”.

15 (d) OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY.—The Sec-
16 retary shall ensure that opioid substitution therapy is
17 available at each Department of Veterans Affairs medical
18 center.

19 (e) PROGRAM EXPIRATION EXTENSION.—Sections
20 1771(b) and 1773(d) of title 38, United States Code, are
21 amended by striking “December 31, 2001” and inserting
22 “December 31, 2006”.

23 **SEC. 14. VARIOUS AUTHORITIES.**

24 (a) EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of
25 Veterans Affairs may authorize homeless veterans receiv-

1 ing care through vocational rehabilitation programs to
2 participate in the compensated work therapy program.

3 (b) SUPPORTED HOUSING FOR VETERANS PARTICI-
4 PATING IN COMPENSATED WORK THERAPIES.—The Sec-
5 retary may authorize homeless veterans in the com-
6 pensated work therapy program to be provided housing
7 through the therapeutic residence program under section
8 1772 of title 38, United States Code, or through grant
9 and per diem providers.

10 (c) STAFFING REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall
11 ensure that there is assigned at each Veterans Benefits
12 Administration regional office at least one employee as-
13 signed specifically to oversee and coordinate homeless vet-
14 erans programs in that region, including the housing pro-
15 gram for veterans supported by the Department of Hous-
16 ing and Urban Development, housing programs supported
17 by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the homeless vet-
18 erans reintegration program of the Department of Labor,
19 the assessments required by section 1774 of title 38,
20 United States Code, Comprehensive Homeless Centers,
21 and such other duties relating to homeless veterans as
22 may be assigned. In any such regional office with at least
23 140 employees, there shall be at least one full-time em-
24 ployee assigned to such functions.

1 (d) COORDINATION OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES.—

2 (1) Section 4103A(e) of title 38, United States Code, is
3 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
4 graph:

5 “(11) Coordination of services provided to vet-
6 erans with training assistance provided to veterans
7 by entities receiving financial assistance under sec-
8 tion 738 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assist-
9 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 11448).”.

10 (2) Section 4104(b) of such title is amended—

11 (A) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
12 (11);

13 (B) by striking the period at the end of para-
14 graph (12) and inserting “; and”; and

15 (C) by adding at the end the following new
16 paragraph:

17 “(13) coordinate services provided to veterans
18 with training assistance for veterans provided by en-
19 tities receiving financial assistance under section 738
20 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42
21 U.S.C. 11448).”.

22 **SEC. 15. LIFE SAFETY CODE FOR GRANT AND PER DIEM**
23 **PROVIDERS.**

24 (a) NEW GRANTS.—Section 3(b)(5) of the Homeless
25 Veterans Comprehensive Service Programs Act of 1992

1 (38 U.S.C. 7721 note) is amended by striking “, but fire
 2 and safety” and all that follows through “in carrying out
 3 the grant” and inserting “and the fire and safety require-
 4 ments applicable under the Life Safety Code of the Na-
 5 tional Fire Protection Association”.

6 (b) PREVIOUS GRANTEEES.—Section 4 of such Act is
 7 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
 8 section:

9 “(c) LIFE SAFETY CODE.—(1) Except as provided in
 10 paragraph (2), a per diem payment (or in-kind assistance
 11 in lieu of per diem payments) may not be provided under
 12 this section to a grant recipient unless the facilities of the
 13 grant recipient meet the fire and safety requirements ap-
 14 plicable under the Life Safety Code of the National Fire
 15 Protection Association.

16 “(2) During the five-year period beginning on the
 17 date of the enactment of the Heather French Henry
 18 Homeless Veterans Assistance Act, paragraph (1) shall
 19 not apply to an entity that received a grant under section
 20 3 before that date if the entity meets fire and safety re-
 21 quirements established by the Secretary.

22 “(3) From amounts available for purposes of this sec-
 23 tion pursuant to section 12, not less than \$5,000,000 shall
 24 be used only for grants to assist entities covered by para-

1 graph (2) in meeting the Life Safety Code of the National
2 Fire Protection Association.”.

3 **SEC. 16. TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS PILOT PRO-**
4 **GRAM.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary
6 of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a three-year pilot pro-
7 gram of transitional assistance grants to eligible homeless
8 veterans. The pilot program shall be established at not less
9 than three nor more than six regional offices of the De-
10 partment of Veterans Affairs and shall include at least
11 one regional office located in a large urban area and at
12 least one regional office serving primarily rural veterans.
13 The maximum number of veterans who may participate
14 in the pilot program is 600.

15 (b) ELIGIBLE VETERANS.—A veteran is eligible for
16 a transitional assistance grant under this section if the
17 veteran is physically present in the geographic area of a
18 regional office which is participating in the pilot program
19 and the veteran—

20 (1) is a veteran of a period of war or, if not a
21 veteran of a period of war, meets the minimum serv-
22 ice requirements specified in section 5303A of title
23 38, United States Code;

24 (2) is being released, or within the preceding 60
25 days was released, from an institution, including a

1 hospital; a penal institution; a homeless shelter; or
2 a facility of a grant and per diem provider;

3 ~~(3)~~ is a homeless veteran or was a homeless vet-
4 eran before institutionalization; and

5 ~~(4)~~ had less than marginal income for the pre-
6 ceeding three months.

7 ~~(c)~~ DURATION OF GRANT ASSISTANCE.—An eligible
8 veteran may be provided a transitional assistance grant
9 under this section for no more than three months.

10 ~~(d)~~ EXCEPTION TO LIMITATION ON GRANT ASSIST-
11 ANCE.—(1) A veteran who receives transitional assistance
12 under this section and who while in receipt of such assist-
13 ance has a claim pending with the Secretary for service-
14 connected disability compensation or nonservice-connected
15 pension shall, notwithstanding subsection ~~(c)~~, continue to
16 be provided transitional assistance under this section after
17 the period prescribed in subsection ~~(c)~~ until the earlier of
18 ~~(A)~~ the date on which a decision on the claim is made
19 by the regional office; or ~~(B)~~ the end of the six-month
20 period beginning on the date of expiration of eligibility
21 under subsection ~~(c)~~.

22 ~~(2)~~ An extension of transitional assistance under
23 paragraph ~~(1)~~ shall be terminated if, as determined by the
24 Secretary, the veteran, without good cause, fails to cooper-
25 ate in establishing the pending claim or if the gross

1 monthly income of the veteran for a month exceeds twice
2 the amount of transitional assistance benefits payable to
3 the veteran for that month. The effective date of such a
4 termination shall be the last day of the month following
5 the month in which the extension under paragraph (1) is
6 terminated under the preceding sentence.

7 (3) Claims of veterans receiving benefits under this
8 subsection shall receive expedited consideration by the re-
9 gional office.

10 (e) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—(1) The monthly amount
11 of a grant provided under this section to an eligible vet-
12 eran shall be the amount of monthly pension that would
13 be payable to that veteran under chapter 15 of title 38,
14 United States Code, if the veteran had a permanent and
15 total nonservice-connected disability.

16 (2) Once eligibility for a grant under this section has
17 been established, the amount of the grant shall be deter-
18 mined without regard to the veteran's income, other than
19 as provided in subsection (d)(2).

20 (f) COORDINATION WITH OTHER BENEFITS.—If ret-
21 roactive benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs
22 are payable to a veteran with respect to a month for which
23 the veteran received a transitional assistance grant under
24 this section, the amount of such retroactive benefit pay-
25 able for such month shall be reduced (but not below zero)

1 by the amount of the grant under this section paid for
2 that month. No reduction may be made by the Secretary
3 from an amount otherwise due a veteran for any other
4 month to offset an amount paid under this section for a
5 previous month.

6 (g) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

7 (1) The term “veteran” means a person who
8 served in the active military, naval, or air service (as
9 defined in section 101 of title 38, United States
10 Code) and who was discharged or released from any
11 such period of service under conditions other than
12 dishonorable.

13 (2) The term “marginal income”, with respect
14 to a veteran, means income below the poverty stand-
15 ard (as determined by the Bureau of the Census) for
16 a family of the size of the veteran’s family.

17 **SEC. 17. ASSISTANCE FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS.**

18 (a) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Veterans
19 Affairs shall carry out a program to make technical assist-
20 ance grants to nonprofit community-based groups with ex-
21 perience in providing assistance to homeless veterans in
22 order to assist such groups in applying for grants relating
23 to addressing problems of homeless veterans.

24 (b) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be appro-
25 priated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for each of

1 fiscal years 2002 through 2006, \$750,000 to carry out
 2 the program under this section.

3 **SEC. 18. HOME LOAN PROGRAM FOR MANUFACTURED**
 4 **HOUSING.**

5 Section 3712(a)(1) of title 38, United States Code,
 6 is amended by adding at the end the following:

7 “With respect to a veteran who, as determined by the Sec-
 8 retary, is homeless, the Secretary may waive any otherwise
 9 applicable requirement under this chapter that a purchase
 10 of a manufactured home include ownership or purchase
 11 of a lot by the veteran to which the home is to be perma-
 12 nently affixed.”.

13 **SEC. 19. EXTENSION OF HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRA-**
 14 **TION PROGRAM.**

15 Section 4111(d)(1) of title 38, United States Code,
 16 is amended by striking subparagraphs (C) and (D) and
 17 inserting the following:

18 “(C) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2002.

19 “(D) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2003.

20 “(E) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2004.

21 “(F) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2005.

22 “(G) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2006.”.

23 **SEC. 20. USE OF REAL PROPERTY.**

24 Section 8122(d) of title 38, United States Code, is
 25 amended by inserting before the period at the end the fol-

1 lowing: “and is not suitable for use for the provision of
 2 services to homeless veterans by the Department or by an
 3 other entity under an enhanced-use lease of such property
 4 under section 8162 of this title”.

5 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

6 (a) *SHORT TITLE.*—*This Act may be cited as the*
 7 *“Heather French Henry Homeless Veterans Assistance Act”.*

8 (b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—*The table of contents for*
 9 *this Act is as follows:*

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings; definition.

Sec. 3. National goal to end homelessness among veterans.

Sec. 4. Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans.

Sec. 5. Meetings of Interagency Council on the Homeless.

Sec. 6. Evaluation of programs and activities regarding homeless veterans.

Sec. 7. Per diem payments for furnishing services to homeless veterans.

Sec. 8. Dental care for homeless veterans.

Sec. 9. Programmatic expansions.

Sec. 10. Various authorities.

Sec. 11. Life safety code for grant and per diem providers.

Sec. 12. Assistance for grant applications.

Sec. 13. Extension of homeless veterans reintegration program.

10 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; DEFINITION.**

11 (a) *FINDINGS.*—*Congress makes the following findings:*

12 (1) *On the field of battle, the members of the*
 13 *Armed Forces who defend the Nation are honor-bound*
 14 *to leave no one behind and, likewise, the Nation is*
 15 *honor-bound to leave no veteran behind.*

16 (2) *The Department of Veterans Affairs report*
 17 *known as the Community Homeless Assessment, Local*
 18 *Education, and Networking Groups for Veterans*
 19 *(CHALENG) assessment, issued in May 2000, reports*

1 *that during 1999 there were an estimated 344,983*
2 *homeless veterans, an increase of 34 percent above the*
3 *1998 estimate of 256,872 homeless veterans.*

4 *(3) The 1996 National Survey of Homeless As-*
5 *sistance Providers and Clients found that, although*
6 *veterans constitute only 13 percent of the adult popu-*
7 *lation, veterans comprise 23 percent of homeless cli-*
8 *ents.*

9 *(4) Homelessness among veterans is persistent*
10 *despite unprecedented economic growth and job cre-*
11 *ation and general prosperity.*

12 *(5) While there are many effective programs that*
13 *assist homeless veterans to again become productive*
14 *and self-sufficient members of society, current re-*
15 *sources provided to such programs and other activi-*
16 *ties that assist homeless veterans are inadequate to*
17 *provide all needed essential services, assistance, and*
18 *support to homeless veterans.*

19 *(6) The CHALENG assessment referred to in*
20 *paragraph (2) reports—*

21 *(A) that Department of Veterans Affairs*
22 *and community providers were responsible for*
23 *establishing almost 500 beds for homeless vet-*
24 *erans during 2000, including emergency, transi-*
25 *tional, and permanent beds; and*

1 **SEC. 4. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS VETERANS.**

2 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Chapter 5 of title 38, United States
3 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new
4 section:

5 **“§ 546. Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans**

6 “(a)(1) *There is established in the Department the Ad-*
7 *visory Committee on Homeless Veterans (hereinafter in this*
8 *section referred to as the ‘Committee’).*

9 “(2) *The Committee shall consist of not more than 15*
10 *members appointed by the Secretary from among the fol-*
11 *lowing:*

12 “(A) *Veterans service organizations.*

13 “(B) *Advocates of homeless veterans and other*
14 *homeless individuals.*

15 “(C) *Community-based providers of services to*
16 *homeless individuals.*

17 “(D) *Previously homeless veterans.*

18 “(E) *State veterans affairs officials.*

19 “(F) *Experts in the treatment of individuals*
20 *with mental illness.*

21 “(G) *Experts in the treatment of substance use*
22 *disorders.*

23 “(H) *Experts in the development of permanent*
24 *housing alternatives for lower income populations.*

25 “(I) *Experts in vocational rehabilitation.*

1 “(J) *Such other organizations or groups as the*
2 *Secretary considers appropriate.*

3 “(3) *The Committee shall include, as ex officio*
4 *members—*

5 “(A) *the Secretary of Labor (or a representative*
6 *of the Secretary selected after consultation with the*
7 *Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans’ Employ-*
8 *ment and Training);*

9 “(B) *the Secretary of Defense (or a representa-*
10 *tive of the Secretary);*

11 “(C) *the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-*
12 *ices (or a representative of the Secretary); and*

13 “(D) *the Secretary of Housing and Urban Devel-*
14 *opment (or a representative of the Secretary).*

15 “(4) *The Secretary shall determine the terms of service*
16 *and pay and allowances of the members of the Committee,*
17 *except that a term of service may not exceed three years.*
18 *The Secretary may reappoint any member for additional*
19 *terms of service.*

20 “(b)(1) *The Secretary shall, on a regular basis, consult*
21 *with and seek the advice of the Committee with respect to*
22 *the provision by the Department of benefits and services to*
23 *homeless veterans.*

24 “(2)(A) *In providing advice to the Secretary under*
25 *this subsection, the Committee shall—*

1 “(i) assemble and review information relating to
2 the needs of homeless veterans;

3 “(ii) provide an on-going assessment of the effec-
4 tiveness of the policies, organizational structures, and
5 services of the Department in assisting homeless vet-
6 erans; and

7 “(iii) provide on-going advice on the most ap-
8 propriate means of providing assistance to homeless
9 veterans.

10 “(3) The Committee shall—

11 “(A) review the continuum of services provided
12 by the Department, whether directly or by contract,
13 in order to define cross-cutting issues and to improve
14 coordination of all services in the Department that
15 address the special needs of homeless veterans;

16 “(B) identify (through annual assessments under
17 section 1774 of this title and other available re-
18 sources) gaps in programs of the Department in serv-
19 ing homeless veterans, including identification of geo-
20 graphic areas with unmet needs, and provide rec-
21 ommendations to address those gaps;

22 “(C) identify gaps in existing information sys-
23 tems on homeless veterans, both within and outside
24 the Department, and provide recommendations about
25 redressing problems in data collection;

1 “(D) identify barriers under existing laws and
2 policies to effective coordination by the Department
3 with other Federal agencies and with State and local
4 agencies addressing homeless populations;

5 “(E) identify opportunities for enhanced liaison
6 by the Department with nongovernmental organiza-
7 tions and individual groups addressing homeless pop-
8 ulations;

9 “(F) with appropriate officials of the Depart-
10 ment designated by the Secretary, participate with
11 the Interagency Council on the Homeless under title
12 II of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
13 (42 U.S.C. 11311 et seq.);

14 “(G) recommend appropriate funding levels for
15 specialized programs for homeless veterans provided
16 or funded by the Department;

17 “(H) recommend appropriate placement options
18 for veterans who, because of advanced age, frailty, or
19 severe mental illness, may not be appropriate can-
20 didates for vocational rehabilitation or independent
21 living; and

22 “(I) perform such other functions as the Sec-
23 retary may direct.

24 “(c)(1) Not later than March 31 of each year, the Com-
25 mittee shall submit to the Secretary a report on the pro-

1 *grams and activities of the Department that relate to home-*
2 *less veterans during the preceding year. Each such report*
3 *shall include—*

4 “(A) *an assessment of the needs of homeless vet-*
5 *erans;*

6 “(B) *a review of the programs and activities of*
7 *the Department designed to meet such needs, includ-*
8 *ing the evaluation of outreach activities required*
9 *under paragraph (2);*

10 “(C) *a review of the activities of the Committee;*
11 *and*

12 “(D) *such recommendations (including rec-*
13 *ommendations for administrative and legislative ac-*
14 *tion) as the Committee considers appropriate.*

15 “(2)(A) *The Committee shall include in each report*
16 *under paragraph (1) an evaluation of the outreach activi-*
17 *ties of the Department with respect to homeless veterans,*
18 *including outreach regarding clinical issues and outreach*
19 *regarding other benefits.*

20 “(B) *The Committee shall conduct each evaluation*
21 *under this paragraph in consultation with the Under Sec-*
22 *retary for Benefits, the Under Secretary for Health, the Re-*
23 *adjustment Counseling Service, the Director of Homeless*
24 *Veterans Programs, and the Mental Health Strategic*
25 *Health Care Group.*

1 “(C) *In including an evaluation under this paragraph*
2 *in a report under paragraph (1), the Committee shall set*
3 *forth in the report the following:*

4 “(i) *The results of the evaluation.*

5 “(ii) *Any recommendations that the Committee*
6 *considers appropriate to improve the outreach activi-*
7 *ties of the Department with respect to homeless vet-*
8 *erans, including recommendations for enhanced inter-*
9 *agency cooperation and enhanced cooperation between*
10 *the Department and appropriate community organi-*
11 *zations and recommendations for additional activities*
12 *to complement, supplement, or otherwise eliminate de-*
13 *ficiencies in the outreach activities.*

14 “(3) *Not later than 90 days after the receipt of a report*
15 *under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall transmit to the*
16 *Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House*
17 *of Representatives a copy of the report, together with any*
18 *comments and recommendations concerning the report that*
19 *the Secretary considers appropriate.*

20 “(4) *The Committee may also submit to the Secretary*
21 *such other reports and recommendations as the Committee*
22 *considers appropriate.*

23 “(5) *The Secretary shall include with each annual re-*
24 *port submitted to Congress pursuant to section 529 of this*
25 *title a summary of all reports and recommendations of the*

1 *Committee submitted to the Secretary since the previous an-*
 2 *nual report of the Secretary submitted pursuant to that sec-*
 3 *tion.*

4 “(d)(1) *Except as provided in paragraph (2), the pro-*
 5 *visions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C.*
 6 *App.) shall apply to the activities of the Committee under*
 7 *this section.*

8 “(2) *Section 14 of such Act shall not apply to the Com-*
 9 *mittee.”.*

10 (b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at*
 11 *the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the*
 12 *end the following new item:*

“546. Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans.”.

13 **SEC. 5. MEETINGS OF INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON THE**
 14 **HOMELESS.**

15 *Section 202(c) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assist-*
 16 *ance Act (42 U.S.C. 11312(c)) is amended to read as fol-*
 17 *lows:*

18 “(c) *MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet at the call*
 19 *of its Chairperson or a majority of its members, but not*
 20 *less often than annually.”.*

21 **SEC. 6. EVALUATION OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES RE-**
 22 **GARDING HOMELESS VETERANS.**

23 (a) *EVALUATION CENTERS.—The Secretary of Vet-*
 24 *erans Affairs shall support the continuation within the De-*
 25 *partment of Veterans Affairs of at least one center for eval-*

1 uation to monitor the structure, process, and outcome of
2 programs of the Department that address homeless veterans.

3 (b) *ANNUAL REPORT ON PROCESSING OF BENEFITS*
4 *CLAIMS.*—*The Secretary shall submit to Congress on an an-*
5 *ual basis a report on the programs and activities of the*
6 *Veterans Benefits Administration in processing of claims*
7 *for benefits of homeless veterans during the preceding year.*
8 *Each report shall include, for the year covered by such re-*
9 *port, the following:*

10 (1) *Information on costs, expenditures, and*
11 *workload of Veterans Benefits Administration claims*
12 *evaluators in processing claims for benefits of home-*
13 *less veterans.*

14 (2) *Information on the filing of claims for bene-*
15 *fits by homeless veterans.*

16 (3) *Information on efforts undertaken to expedite*
17 *the processing of claims for benefits of homeless vet-*
18 *erans.*

19 (4) *Any other information that the Secretary*
20 *considers appropriate.*

21 (c) *ANNUAL REPORT ON HEALTH CARE.*—*The Sec-*
22 *retary shall submit to Congress on an annual basis a report*
23 *on programs of the Department addressing health care*
24 *needs of homeless veterans. The Secretary shall include in*
25 *each such report the following:*

1 (1) *Information about expenditures, costs, and*
2 *workload under the Department of Veterans Affairs*
3 *program known as the Health Care for Homeless Vet-*
4 *erans program (HCHV).*

5 (2) *Information about the veterans contacted*
6 *through the program.*

7 (3) *Information about processes under the pro-*
8 *gram.*

9 (4) *Information about program treatment out-*
10 *comes under the program.*

11 (5) *Other information the Secretary considers*
12 *relevant in assessing the program.*

13 (6) *Information about supported housing pro-*
14 *grams.*

15 (7) *Information about the grant and per diem*
16 *provider program of the Department.*

17 (d) *ANNUAL PROGRAM ASSESSMENT.*—Section 1774(b)
18 *of title 38, United States Code, is amended—*

19 (1) *in paragraph (1), by inserting “annual”*
20 *after “to make an”; and*

21 (2) *by adding at the end the following new para-*
22 *graph:*

23 “(6) *The Secretary shall review each annual assess-*
24 *ment under this subsection, and shall consolidate the find-*

1 *ings and conclusions of such assessments into an annual*
 2 *report which the Secretary shall submit to Congress.”.*

3 **SEC. 7. PER DIEM PAYMENTS FOR FURNISHING SERVICES**
 4 **TO HOMELESS VETERANS.**

5 *(a) INCREASE IN RATE OF PER DIEM PAYMENTS.—*
 6 *Section 4(a) of the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Serv-*
 7 *ice Programs Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C. 7721 note) is amended*
 8 *by striking “at such rates” and all that follows through*
 9 *“homeless veteran—” and inserting the following: “at the*
 10 *same rates as the rates authorized for State homes for domi-*
 11 *ciliary care provided under section 1741 of title 38, United*
 12 *States Code, for services furnished to homeless vet-*
 13 *erans—”.*

14 *(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by sub-*
 15 *section (a) shall take effect on the first day of the first fiscal*
 16 *year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

17 **SEC. 8. DENTAL CARE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.**

18 *Section 1712(a)(1)(H)(ii) of title 38, United States*
 19 *Code, is amended by inserting “(including a homeless vet-*
 20 *eran)” after “for a veteran”.*

21 **SEC. 9. PROGRAMMATIC EXPANSIONS.**

22 *(a) TRANSITIONAL HOUSING.—Effective October 1,*
 23 *2001, section 12 of the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive*
 24 *Service Programs Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C. 7721 note) is*
 25 *amended to read as follows:*

1 **“SEC. 12. FUNDING.**

2 “(a) *AMOUNTS FOR GRANT AND PER DIEM PRO-*
 3 *GRAMS.—From amounts appropriated for ‘Medical Care’*
 4 *for any fiscal year, the Secretary may expend not more*
 5 *than \$55,000,000 (as adjusted from time to time under sub-*
 6 *section (b)) to carry out the transitional housing grant and*
 7 *per diem provider programs under sections 3 and 4 of this*
 8 *Act.*

9 “(b) *PERIODIC INCREASES.—The amount in effect*
 10 *under subsection (a) shall be increased for any fiscal year*
 11 *by the overall percentage increase in the Medical Care ac-*
 12 *count for that fiscal year over the preceding fiscal year.”.*

13 (b) *COMPREHENSIVE HOMELESS SERVICES PRO-*
 14 *GRAM.—(1)(A) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall pro-*
 15 *vide for the establishment of not less than five additional*
 16 *centers for the provision of comprehensive services to home-*
 17 *less veterans under section 1773(b) of title 38, United States*
 18 *Code.*

19 (B) *In establishing additional centers under this para-*
 20 *graph, the Secretary shall take into account the particular*
 21 *needs of homeless veterans in each metropolitan area in*
 22 *which the Secretary proposes to establish a center.*

23 (C) *The Secretary shall ensure that the services pro-*
 24 *vided to homeless veterans at each center established under*
 25 *this paragraph are tailored to the needs of homeless veterans*
 26 *in the metropolitan area in which such center is established.*

1 (2) *Section 1773(b) of title 38, United States Code, is*
 2 *amended by striking “not fewer than eight”.*

3 (c) *PROGRAM EXPIRATION EXTENSION.*—Sections
 4 *1771(b) and 1773(d) of title 38, United States Code, are*
 5 *amended by striking “December 31, 2001” and inserting*
 6 *“December 31, 2006”.*

7 **SEC. 10. VARIOUS AUTHORITIES.**

8 (a) *EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS.*—The Secretary of Vet-
 9 *erans Affairs may authorize homeless veterans receiving*
 10 *care through vocational rehabilitation programs to partici-*
 11 *pate in the compensated work therapy program.*

12 (b) *SUPPORTED HOUSING FOR VETERANS PARTICI-*
 13 *PATING IN COMPENSATED WORK THERAPIES.*—(1) *The Sec-*
 14 *retary may authorize homeless veterans in the compensated*
 15 *work therapy program to be provided housing through the*
 16 *therapeutic residence program under section 1772 of title*
 17 *38, United States Code, or through grant and per diem pro-*
 18 *viders.*

19 (2) *As used in this subsection, the term “grant and*
 20 *per diem provider” means an entity in receipt of a grant*
 21 *under section 3 or 4 of the Homeless Veterans Comprehen-*
 22 *sive Service Programs Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C. 7721 note).*

23 (c) *REPORT ON ASSIGNMENT OF HOMELESS COORDI-*
 24 *NATORS AT VBA REGIONAL OFFICES.*—(1) *Not later than*
 25 *120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the*

1 *Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Af-*
2 *fairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a re-*
3 *port on the assignment of Homeless Coordinators at the Re-*
4 *gional Offices of the Veterans Benefits Administration.*

5 *(2) The report shall include the following:*

6 *(A) A list of the Regional Offices of the Veterans*
7 *Benefits Administration for which Homeless Coordi-*
8 *nators have been assigned.*

9 *(B) A description of the manner in which each*
10 *Regional Office listed under subparagraph (A) staffs*
11 *the assignment, whether as a collateral hire, by rota-*
12 *tion of staff, or by a full-time employee, including the*
13 *caseload of the position and the amount of time spent*
14 *on the caseload by each employee assigned to fulfill*
15 *the duties of the position.*

16 *(C) In the case of any Regional Offices for which*
17 *no Homeless Coordinator has been assigned, a de-*
18 *scription of the manner in which such Regional Office*
19 *addresses matters relating to homeless veterans.*

20 *(D) An evaluation of the demand for services of*
21 *Homeless Coordinators in the various Regional Of-*
22 *fices, including a statement of the Regional Offices*
23 *which have the greatest demand for such services.*

1 (d) *COORDINATION OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES.*—(1)
 2 Section 4103A(c) of title 38, United States Code, is amend-
 3 ed by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

4 “(11) Coordination of services provided to vet-
 5 erans with training assistance provided to veterans
 6 by entities receiving financial assistance under sec-
 7 tion 738 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance
 8 Act (42 U.S.C. 11448).”.

9 (2) Section 4104(b) of such title is amended—

10 (A) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
 11 (11);

12 (B) by striking the period at the end of para-
 13 graph (12) and inserting “; and”; and

14 (C) by adding at the end the following new para-
 15 graph:

16 “(13) coordinate services provided to veterans
 17 with training assistance for veterans provided by en-
 18 tities receiving financial assistance under section 738
 19 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42
 20 U.S.C. 11448).”.

21 **SEC. 11. LIFE SAFETY CODE FOR GRANT AND PER DIEM**
 22 **PROVIDERS.**

23 (a) *NEW GRANTS.*—Section 3(b)(5) of the Homeless
 24 Veterans Comprehensive Service Programs Act of 1992 (38
 25 U.S.C. 7721 note) is amended by striking “, but fire and

1 *safety” and all that follows through “in carrying out the*
2 *grant” and inserting “and the fire and safety requirements*
3 *applicable under the Life Safety Code of the National Fire*
4 *Protection Association”.*

5 **(b) PREVIOUS GRANTEES.**—*Section 4 of such Act is*
6 *amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:*

7 **“(e) LIFE SAFETY CODE.**—*(1) Except as provided in*
8 *paragraph (2), a per diem payment (or in-kind assistance*
9 *in lieu of per diem payments) may not be provided under*
10 *this section to a grant recipient unless the facilities of the*
11 *grant recipient meet the fire and safety requirements appli-*
12 *cable under the Life Safety Code of the National Fire Pro-*
13 *tection Association.*

14 **“(2) During the five-year period beginning on the date**
15 *of the enactment of the Heather French Henry Homeless*
16 *Veterans Assistance Act, paragraph (1) shall not apply to*
17 *an entity that received a grant under section 3 before that*
18 *date if the entity meets fire and safety requirements estab-*
19 *lished by the Secretary.*

20 **“(3) From amounts available for purposes of this sec-**
21 *tion pursuant to section 12, not less than \$5,000,000 shall*
22 *be used only for grants to assist entities covered by para-*
23 *graph (2) in meeting the Life Safety Code of the National*
24 *Fire Protection Association.”.*

1 **SEC. 12. ASSISTANCE FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS.**

2 (a) *GRANT PROGRAM.*—*The Secretary of Veterans Af-*
3 *fairs shall carry out a program to make technical assistance*
4 *grants to nonprofit community-based groups with experi-*
5 *ence in providing assistance to homeless veterans in order*
6 *to assist such groups in applying for grants relating to ad-*
7 *dressing problems of homeless veterans.*

8 (b) *FUNDING.*—*There is authorized to be appropriated*
9 *to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal years*
10 *2002 through 2006, \$750,000 to carry out the program*
11 *under this section.*

12 **SEC. 13. EXTENSION OF HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRA-**
13 **TION PROGRAM.**

14 Section 4111(d)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is
15 amended by striking subparagraphs (C) and (D) and in-
16 serting the following:

17 “(C) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2002.

18 “(D) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2003.

19 “(E) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2004.

20 “(F) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2005.

21 “(G) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2006.”.

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1ST SESSION

S. 739

[Report No. 107-82]

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve programs for homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

OCTOBER 11, 2001

Reported with an amendment