

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2190

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish the Advisory Committee on Rural Veterans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 7, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish the Advisory Committee on Rural Veterans.

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 “Advisory Committee
5 on Rural Veterans Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RURAL VETERANS.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE.—Subchapter
8 III of chapter 5 of title 38, United States Code, is amend-
9 ed by adding at the end the following new section:

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

2 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—(1) The Secretary shall es-
3 tablish an advisory committee to be known as the ‘Advi-
4 sory Committee on Rural Veterans’ (hereinafter in this
5 section referred to as ‘the Committee’).

6 “(2)(A) The Committee shall consist of members ap-
7 pointed by the Secretary from the general public, includ-
8 ing—

9 “(i) representatives of rural veterans;

10 “(ii) individuals who are recognized authorities
11 in fields pertinent to the needs of rural veterans, in-
12 cluding specific or unique health-care needs of rural
13 veterans and access issues of rural veterans;

14 “(iii) individuals who have expertise in the de-
15 livery of mental health care in rural areas;

16 “(iv) individuals who have expertise in the deliv-
17 ery of long-term care in rural areas;

18 “(v) at least one veterans service organization
19 representative from a rural State; and

20 “(vi) representatives of rural veterans with
21 service-connected disabilities.

22 “(B) The Committee shall include, as ex officio mem-
23 bers—

24 “(i) the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
25 ices (or a representative of the Secretary of Health
26 and Human Services designated by that Secretary);

1 “(ii) the Director of the Indian Health Service
2 (or a representative of that Director); and

3 “(iii) the Under Secretary for Health and the
4 Under Secretary for Benefits, or their designees.

5 “(C) The Secretary may invite representatives of
6 other departments and agencies of the United States to
7 participate in the meetings and other activities of the
8 Committee.

9 “(3) The Secretary shall determine the number,
10 terms of service, and pay and allowances of members of
11 the Committee appointed by the Secretary, except that a
12 term of service of any such member may not exceed three
13 years. The Secretary may reappoint any such member for
14 additional terms of service.

15 “(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMITTEE.—The Sec-
16 retary shall, on a regular basis, consult with and seek the
17 advice of the Committee with respect to the administration
18 of benefits by the Department for rural veterans, reports
19 and studies pertaining to rural veterans, and the needs
20 of rural veterans with respect to primary care, mental
21 health care, and long-term care needs of rural veterans.

22 “(c) REPORT.—(1) Not later than September 1 of
23 each odd-numbered year until 2013, the Committee shall
24 submit to the Secretary a report on the programs and ac-

1 tivities of the Department that pertain to rural veterans.

2 Each such report shall include—

3 “(A) an assessment of the needs of rural vet-
4 erans with respect to primary care, mental health
5 care, and long-term care needs of rural veterans and
6 other benefits and programs administered by the
7 Department;

8 “(B) a review of the programs and activities of
9 the Department designed to meet such needs; and

10 “(C) such recommendations (including rec-
11 ommendations for administrative and legislative ac-
12 tion) as the Committee considers appropriate.

13 “(2) The Secretary shall, within 60 days after receiv-
14 ing each report under paragraph (1), submit to Congress
15 a copy of the report, together with any comments con-
16 cerning the report that the Secretary considers appro-
17 priate.

18 “(3) The Committee may also submit to the Sec-
19 retary such other reports and recommendations as the
20 Committee considers appropriate.

21 “(4) The Secretary shall submit with each annual re-
22 port submitted to Congress pursuant to section 529 of this
23 title a summary of all reports and recommendations of the
24 Committee submitted to the Secretary since the previous

1 annual report of the Secretary submitted pursuant to that
2 section.”.

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

“546. Advisory Committee on Rural Veterans.”.

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