

112TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3309

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 18, 2012

Mrs. MURRAY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Homeless Veterans Assistance Improvement Act of  
6 2012”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

- Sec. 2. Requirement that recipients of grants from Department of Veterans Affairs for comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans meet physical privacy, safety, and security needs of such veterans.
- Sec. 3. Modification of authority of Department of Veterans Affairs to provide capital improvement grants for comprehensive service programs that assist homeless veterans.
- Sec. 4. Funding for furnishing legal services to very low-income veteran families in permanent housing.
- Sec. 5. Modifications to requirements relating to per diem payments for services furnished to homeless veterans.
- Sec. 6. Authorization of grants by Department of Veterans Affairs to centers that provide services to homeless veterans for operational expenses.
- Sec. 7. Expansion of Department of Veterans Affairs authority to provide dental care to homeless veterans.
- Sec. 8. Extensions of authorities and programs affecting homeless veterans.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT THAT RECIPIENTS OF GRANTS**  
 2 **FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
 3 **FOR COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS**  
 4 **FOR HOMELESS VETERANS MEET PHYSICAL**  
 5 **PRIVACY, SAFETY, AND SECURITY NEEDS OF**  
 6 **SUCH VETERANS.**

7 Section 2011(f) of title 38, United States Code, is  
 8 amended by adding at the end the following new para-  
 9 graph:

10 “(6) To meet the physical privacy, safety, and  
 11 security needs of homeless veterans receiving serv-  
 12 ices through the project.”.

1 **SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY OF DEPARTMENT OF**  
 2 **VETERANS AFFAIRS TO PROVIDE CAPITAL**  
 3 **IMPROVEMENT GRANTS FOR COMPREHEN-**  
 4 **SIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS THAT ASSIST**  
 5 **HOMELESS VETERANS.**

6 Section 2011(a) of title 38, United States Code, is  
 7 amended, in the matter before paragraph (1), by inserting  
 8 “and maintaining” after “in establishing”.

9 **SEC. 4. FUNDING FOR FURNISHING LEGAL SERVICES TO**  
 10 **VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES IN**  
 11 **PERMANENT HOUSING.**

12 Section 2044(e) of title 38, United States Code, is  
 13 amended—

14 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as  
 15 paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

16 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-  
 17 lowing new paragraph (2):

18 “(2) Of amounts made available under paragraph  
 19 (1), not less than one percent shall be available for the  
 20 furnishing of services described in subsection  
 21 (b)(1)(D)(vii).”.

22 **SEC. 5. MODIFICATIONS TO REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO**  
 23 **PER DIEM PAYMENTS FOR SERVICES FUR-**  
 24 **NISHED TO HOMELESS VETERANS.**

25 (a) **AUTHORIZATION OF PER DIEM PAYMENTS FOR**  
 26 **FURNISHING CARE TO DEPENDENTS OF CERTAIN HOME-**

1 LESS VETERANS.—Section 2012(a) of title 38, United  
2 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
3 lowing new paragraph:

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

11 (b) PROVISION OF FUNDS FOR PER DIEM PAYMENTS  
12 FOR NONCONFORMING ENTITIES.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2012(d)(1) of such  
14 title is amended, in the matter preceding subpara-  
15 graph (A), by striking “may make” and inserting  
16 “shall make”.

17 (2) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than  
18 one year after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
19 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prescribe  
20 such regulations as may be necessary to implement  
21 the amendment made by paragraph (1).

1 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF GRANTS BY DEPARTMENT OF**  
2 **VETERANS AFFAIRS TO CENTERS THAT PRO-**  
3 **VIDE SERVICES TO HOMELESS VETERANS**  
4 **FOR OPERATIONAL EXPENSES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 20 of  
6 title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after  
7 section 2012 the following new section:

8 **“§ 2012A. Service center operational grants**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of ap-  
10 propriations provided for such purpose, the Secretary may  
11 award to a recipient of a grant under section 2011 of this  
12 title for the establishment of a service center described in  
13 subsection (g) of such section a grant for the operational  
14 expenses of such service center not otherwise covered by  
15 the receipt of per diem payments under section 2012 of  
16 this section.

17 “(b) LIMITATION.—The aggregate amount of all  
18 grants awarded under subsection (a) in any fiscal year  
19 may not exceed \$500,000.”.

20 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
21 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting  
22 after the item relating to section 2012 the following new  
23 item:

“2012A. Service center operational grants.”.

24 (c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-  
25 fairs shall promulgate regulations to carry out section

1 2012A of title 38, United States Code, as added by sub-  
2 section (a), not later than one year after the date of the  
3 enactment of this Act.

4 **SEC. 7. EXPANSION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**  
5 **FAIRS AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE DENTAL**  
6 **CARE TO HOMELESS VETERANS.**

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

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

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

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

15 “(i) assistance under section 8(o) of the  
16 United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.  
17 1437f(o)); or

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 **SEC. 8. EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITIES AND PROGRAMS AF-**  
13 **FFECTING HOMELESS VETERANS.**

14           (a) COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS.—Section  
15 2013 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by strik-  
16 ing paragraph (5) and inserting the following new para-  
17 graphs:

18                   “(5) \$250,000,000 for fiscal year 2013.

19                   “(6) \$150,000,000 for fiscal year 2014 and  
20 each subsequent fiscal year.”.

21           (b) HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PRO-  
22 GRAMS.—Section 2021(e)(1)(F) of such title is amended  
23 by striking “2012” and inserting “2013”.

24           (c) OUTREACH, CARE, TREATMENT, REHABILITA-  
25 TION, AND THERAPEUTIC TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR

1 VETERANS SUFFERING FROM SERIOUS MENTAL ILL-  
2 NESS.—Section 2031(b) of such title is amended by strik-  
3 ing “December 31, 2012” and inserting “December 31,  
4 2014”.

5 (d) PROGRAM TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE PROVISION  
6 OF BENEFITS AND SERVICES BY DEPARTMENT OF VET-  
7 ERANS AFFAIRS TO HOMELESS VETERANS.—Section  
8 2033(d) of such title is amended by striking “December  
9 31, 2012” and inserting “December 31, 2014”.

10 (e) HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS VET-  
11 ERANS.—Section 2041(e) of such title is amended by  
12 striking “December 31, 2012” and inserting “December  
13 31, 2013”.

14 (f) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERV-  
15 ICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES IN  
16 PERMANENT HOUSING.—Section 2044(e)(1) of such title  
17 is amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
18 paragraph:

19 “(E) \$300,000,000 for fiscal year 2013.”.

20 (g) GRANT PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS  
21 WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.—Section 2061(c)(1) of such title  
22 is amended by striking “through 2012” and inserting  
23 “through 2015”.

24 (h) ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS VET-  
25 ERANS.—Section 2066(d) of such title is amended by



1 striking “December 31, 2012” and inserting “December  
2 31, 2014”.

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