

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 825

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of services for homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 25, 2013

Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mr. BURR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of services 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Homeless Veterans
5 Prevention Act of 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO GRANT PROGRAM FOR COM-**
7 **PREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS FOR**
8 **HOMELESS VETERANS.**

9 (a) MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE CAP-
10 ITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS FOR PROGRAMS THAT AS-

1 SIST HOMELESS VETERANS.—Subsection (a) of section
 2 2011 of title 38, United States Code, is amended, in the
 3 matter before paragraph (1)—

4 (1) by striking “or modifying” and inserting “,
 5 modifying, or maintaining”; and

6 (2) by inserting “privately, safely, and se-
 7 curely,” before “the following”.

8 (b) REQUIREMENT THAT RECIPIENTS OF GRANTS
 9 MEET PHYSICAL PRIVACY, SAFETY, AND SECURITY
 10 NEEDS OF HOMELESS VETERANS.—Subsection (f) of
 11 such section is amended by adding at the end the following
 12 new paragraph:

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

16 **SEC. 3. INCREASED PER DIEM PAYMENTS FOR TRANSI-**
 17 **TIONAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE THAT BE-**
 18 **COMES PERMANENT HOUSING FOR HOME-**
 19 **LESS VETERANS.**

20 Section 2012(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code,
 21 is amended—

22 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (B)
 23 through (D) as subparagraphs (C) through (E), re-
 24 spectively;

1 (2) in subparagraph (C), as redesignated, by
 2 striking “in subparagraph (D)” and inserting “in
 3 subparagraph (E)”;

4 (3) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated, by
 5 striking “under subparagraph (B)” and inserting
 6 “under subparagraph (C)”;

7 (4) in subparagraph (E), as redesignated, by
 8 striking “in subparagraphs (B) and (C)” and insert-
 9 ing “in subparagraphs (C) and (D)”;

10 (5) in subparagraph (A)—

11 (A) by striking “The rate” and inserting
 12 “Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph
 13 (B), the rate”; and

14 (B) by striking “under subparagraph (B)”
 15 and all that follows through the end and insert-
 16 ing the following: “under subparagraph (C).

17 “(B)(i) Except as provided in clause (ii), in no case
 18 may the rate determined under this paragraph exceed the
 19 rate authorized for State homes for domiciliary care under
 20 subsection (a)(1)(A) of section 1741 of this title, as the
 21 Secretary may increase from time to time under sub-
 22 section (c) of that section.

23 “(ii) In the case of services furnished to a homeless
 24 veteran who is placed in housing that will become perma-
 25 nent housing for the veteran upon termination of the fur-

1 nishing of such services to such veteran, the maximum
 2 rate of per diem authorized under this section is 150 per-
 3 cent of the rate described in clause (i).”.

4 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF PER DIEM PAYMENTS FOR**
 5 **FURNISHING CARE TO DEPENDENTS OF CER-**
 6 **TAIN HOMELESS VETERANS.**

7 Subsection (a) of section 2012 of title 38, United
 8 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 9 lowing new paragraph:

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

17 **SEC. 5. REQUIREMENT FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
 18 **AFFAIRS TO ASSESS COMPREHENSIVE SERV-**
 19 **ICE PROGRAMS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
 21 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
 22 erans Affairs shall assess and measure the capacity of pro-
 23 grams for which entities receive grants under section 2011
 24 of title 38, United States Code, or per diem payments
 25 under section 2012 or 2061 of such title.

1 (b) ASSESSMENT AT NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEV-
2 ELS.—In assessing and measuring under subsection (a),
3 the Secretary shall develop and use tools to examine the
4 capacity of programs described in such subsection at both
5 the national and local level in order to assess the following:

6 (1) Whether sufficient capacity exists to meet
7 the needs of homeless veterans in each geographic
8 area.

9 (2) Whether existing capacity meets the needs
10 of the subpopulations of homeless veterans located in
11 each geographic area.

12 (3) The amount of capacity that recipients of
13 grants under sections 2011 and 2061 and per diem
14 payments under section 2012 of such title have to
15 provide services for which the recipients are eligible
16 to receive per diem under section 2012(a)(2)(B)(ii)
17 of title 38, United States Code, as added by section
18 3(5)(B).

19 (c) USE OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall use
20 the information collected under this section as follows:

21 (1) To set specific goals to ensure that pro-
22 grams described in subsection (a) are effectively
23 serving the needs of homeless veterans.

1 (2) To assess whether programs described in
 2 subsection (a) are meeting goals set under para-
 3 graph (1).

4 (3) To inform funding allocations for programs
 5 described in subsection (a).

6 (4) To improve the referral of homeless vet-
 7 erans to programs described in subsection (a).

8 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
 9 on which the assessment required by subsection (b) is
 10 completed, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee
 11 on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on
 12 Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report
 13 on such assessment and such recommendations for legisla-
 14 tive and administrative action as the Secretary may have
 15 to improve the programs and per diem payments described
 16 in subsection (a).

17 **SEC. 6. REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL REPORTS**
 18 **ON ASSISTANCE TO HOMELESS VETERANS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2065 of title 38, United
 20 States Code, is hereby repealed.

21 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 22 at the beginning of chapter 20 of such title is amended
 23 by striking the item relating to section 2065.

1 **SEC. 7. REPEAL OF SUNSET ON AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT**
 2 **PROGRAM OF REFERRAL AND COUNSELING**
 3 **SERVICES FOR VETERANS AT RISK FOR**
 4 **HOMELESSNESS WHO ARE TRANSITIONING**
 5 **FROM CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS.**

6 Section 2023 of title 38, United States Code, is
 7 amended—

8 (1) by striking subsection (d); and

9 (2) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
 10 section (d).

11 **SEC. 8. PARTNERSHIPS WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTI-**
 12 **TIES TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES TO**
 13 **HOMELESS VETERANS AND VETERANS AT**
 14 **RISK OF HOMELESSNESS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 20 of title 38, United
 16 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2022
 17 the following new section:

18 **“§ 2022A. Partnerships with public and private enti-**
 19 **ties to provide legal services to homeless**
 20 **veterans and veterans at risk of home-**
 21 **lessness**

22 **“(a) PARTNERSHIPS AUTHORIZED.—**Subject to the
 23 availability of funds for that purpose, the Secretary may
 24 enter into partnerships with public or private entities to
 25 fund a portion of the general legal services specified in

1 subsection (c) that are provided by such entities to home-
 2 less veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.

3 “(b) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall ensure that,
 4 to the extent practicable, partnerships under this section
 5 are made with entities equitably distributed across the ge-
 6 ographic regions of the United States, including rural
 7 communities and tribal lands.

8 “(c) LEGAL SERVICES.—Legal services specified in
 9 this subsection include legal services provided by public
 10 or private entities that address the needs of homeless vet-
 11 erans and veterans at risk of homelessness as follows:

12 “(1) Legal services related to housing, including
 13 eviction defense and representation in landlord-ten-
 14 ant cases.

15 “(2) Legal services related to family law, in-
 16 cluding assistance in court proceedings for child sup-
 17 port, divorce, and estate planning.

18 “(3) Legal services related to income support,
 19 including assistance in obtaining public benefits.

20 “(4) Legal services related to criminal defense,
 21 including defense in matters symptomatic of home-
 22 lessness, such as outstanding warrants, fines, and
 23 driver’s license revocation, to reduce recidivism and
 24 facilitate the overcoming of reentry obstacles in em-
 25 ployment or housing.

1 “(d) CONSULTATION.—In developing and carrying
 2 out partnerships under this section, the Secretary shall,
 3 to the extent practicable, consult with public and private
 4 entities—

5 “(1) for assistance in identifying and contacting
 6 organizations described in subsection (c); and

7 “(2) to coordinate appropriate outreach rela-
 8 tionships with such organizations.

9 “(e) REPORTS.—The Secretary may require entities
 10 that have entered into partnerships under this section to
 11 submit to the Secretary periodic reports on legal services
 12 provided to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of
 13 homelessness pursuant to such partnerships.”.

14 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 15 at the beginning of chapter 20 of such title is amended
 16 by adding after the item relating to section 2022 the fol-
 17 lowing new item:

“2022A. Partnerships with public and private entities to provide legal services
 to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.”.

18 **SEC. 9. EXPANSION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
 19 **FAIRS AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE DENTAL**
 20 **CARE TO HOMELESS VETERANS.**

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

23 “(b) ELIGIBLE VETERANS.—(1) Subsection (a) ap-
 24 plies to a veteran who—

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

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

5 “(i) assistance under section 8(o) of the
6 United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.
7 1437f(o)); or

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

10 “(I) A domiciliary under section 1710
11 of this title.

12 “(II) A therapeutic residence under
13 section 2032 of this title.

14 “(III) Community residential care co-
15 ordinated by the Secretary under section
16 1730 of this title.

17 “(IV) A setting for which the Sec-
18 retary provides funds for a grant and per
19 diem provider.

20 “(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), in determining
21 whether a veteran has received assistance or care for a
22 period of 60 consecutive days, the Secretary may disregard
23 breaks in the continuity of assistance or care for which
24 the veteran is not responsible.”.

1 **SEC. 10. EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITIES.**

2 (a) COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS.—Section
3 2013 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by strik-
4 ing paragraphs (4) through (6) and inserting the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(4) \$250,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012
7 through 2014.

8 “(5) \$150,000,000 for fiscal year 2015 and
9 each subsequent fiscal year.”.

10 (b) HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PRO-
11 GRAMS.—Section 2021(e)(1)(F) of such title is amended
12 by striking “2013” and inserting “2014”.

13 (c) TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION FOR SERI-
14 OUSLY MENTALLY ILL AND HOMELESS VETERANS.—Sec-
15 tion 2031(b) of such title is amended by striking “Decem-
16 ber 31, 2013” and inserting “December 31, 2014”.

17 (d) CENTERS FOR THE PROVISION OF COMPREHEN-
18 SIVE SERVICES TO HOMELESS VETERANS.—Section
19 2033(d) of such title is amended by striking “December
20 31, 2013” and inserting “December 31, 2014”.

21 (e) HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS VET-
22 ERANS.—Section 2041(c) of such title is amended by
23 striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “December
24 31, 2014”.

1 (f) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERV-
 2 ICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES IN
 3 PERMANENT HOUSING.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section
 5 2044(e) of such title is amended by adding at the
 6 end the following new subparagraph (F):

7 “(F) \$300,000,000 for fiscal year 2014.”.

8 (2) TRAINING ENTITIES FOR PROVISION OF
 9 SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—Paragraph (3) of such sec-
 10 tion is amended by striking “2012” and inserting
 11 “2014”.

12 (g) GRANT PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS
 13 WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.—Section 2061(d)(1) of such title
 14 is amended by striking “for each of” through “shall be
 15 available” and inserting “for each of fiscal years 2007
 16 through 2014, \$5,000,000 shall be available”.

17 (h) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS FOR NON-
 18 PROFIT COMMUNITY-BASED GROUPS.—Section 2064(b)
 19 of such title is amended by striking “2012” and inserting
 20 “2014”.

21 (i) ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS VET-
 22 ERANS.—Section 2066(d) of such title is amended by
 23 striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “December
 24 31, 2014”.

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