

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1731

To amend title 38, United States Code, to waive the minimum period of continuous active duty in the Armed Forces for receipt of certain benefits for homeless veterans, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish such benefits to homeless veterans with discharges or releases from service in the Armed Forces with other than dishonorable conditions, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 9, 2015

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. HIRONO) 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 waive the minimum period of continuous active duty in the Armed Forces for receipt of certain benefits for homeless veterans, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish such benefits to homeless veterans with discharges or releases from service in the Armed Forces with other than dishonorable conditions, 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.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Homeless Veterans
3 Services Protection Act of 2015”.

4 **SEC. 2. WAIVER OF MINIMUM PERIOD OF CONTINUOUS AC-**
5 **TIVE DUTY IN ARMED FORCES FOR CERTAIN**
6 **BENEFITS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.**

7 Section 5303A(b)(3) of title 38, United States Code,
8 is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (F) and
10 (G) as subparagraphs (G) and (H), respectively; and

11 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the fol-
12 lowing new subparagraph (F’):

13 “(F) to benefits under section 2011, 2012,
14 2013, 2044, or 2061 of this title;”.

15 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION TO FURNISH CERTAIN BENEFITS**
16 **TO HOMELESS VETERANS WITH DISCHARGES**
17 **OR RELEASES UNDER OTHER THAN HONOR-**
18 **ABLE CONDITIONS.**

19 Section 5303(d) of title 38, United States Code, is
20 amended—

21 (1) by striking “not apply to any war-risk in-
22 surance” and inserting the following: “not apply to
23 the following:

24 “(1) Any war-risk insurance”; and

25 (2) by adding at the end the following new
26 paragraph:

1 “(2) Benefits under section 2011, 2012, 2013,
 2 2044, or 2061 of this title (except for benefits for
 3 individuals discharged or dismissed from the Armed
 4 Forces by reason of the sentence of a general court-
 5 martial).”.

6 **SEC. 4. MODIFICATION OF DEFINITION OF VETERAN FOR**
 7 **PURPOSES OF PROVIDING CERTAIN BENE-**
 8 **FITS TO HOMELESS VETERANS.**

9 Section 2002 of title 38, United States Code, is
 10 amended—

11 (1) by striking “In this chapter” and inserting
 12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In this chapter”; and

13 (2) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(b) VETERAN DEFINED.—(1) Notwithstanding sec-
 15 tion 101(2) of this title and except as provided in para-
 16 graph (2), for purposes of sections 2011, 2012, 2013,
 17 2044, and 2061 of this title, the term ‘veteran’ means a
 18 person who served in the active military, naval, or air serv-
 19 ice, regardless of length of service, and who was dis-
 20 charged or released therefrom.

21 “(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), the term ‘vet-
 22 eran’ excludes a person who—

23 “(A) received a dishonorable discharge from the
 24 Armed Forces; or

1 “(B) was discharged or dismissed from the
2 Armed Forces by reason of the sentence of a general
3 court-martial.”.

4 **SEC. 5. TRAINING OF PERSONNEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF**
5 **VETERANS AFFAIRS AND GRANT RECIPIENTS.**

6 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a
7 program of training and education to ensure that the fol-
8 lowing persons are aware of and implement this Act and
9 the amendments made by this Act:

10 (1) Personnel of the Department of Veterans
11 Affairs who are supporting or administering a pro-
12 gram under chapter 20 of title 38, United States
13 Code.

14 (2) Recipients of grants or other amounts for
15 purposes of carrying out such a program.

16 **SEC. 6. REGULATIONS.**

17 Not later than 270 days after the date of the enact-
18 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
19 prescribe regulations, including such modifications to sec-
20 tion 3.12 of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations (or any
21 successor regulation), as the Secretary considers appro-
22 priate, to ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs
23 is in full compliance with this Act and the amendments
24 made by this Act.

1 **SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall
3 apply to individuals seeking benefits under chapter 20 of
4 title 38, United States Code, before, on, and after the date
5 of the enactment of this Act.

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