

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 165

To require the inclusion of veterans in housing planning and an annual report on housing assistance to veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2019

Mr. GREEN of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To require the inclusion of veterans in housing planning and an annual report on housing assistance to 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 “Improving Access to
5 Homes for Heroes Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF VETERANS IN HOUSING PLANNING.**

7 (a) PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY PLANS.—Section
8 5A(d)(1) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42
9 U.S.C. 1437e–1(d)(1)) is amended by striking “and dis-
10 abled families” and inserting “, disabled families, and vet-

1 erans (as such term is defined in section 101 of title 38,
2 United States Code)”.
3

3 (b) COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING AFFORDABILITY
4 STRATEGIES.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 105 of the Cran-
6 ston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42
7 U.S.C. 12705) is amended—

8 (A) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “vet-
9 erans (as such term is defined in section 101 of
10 title 38, United States Code),” after “acquired
11 immunodeficiency syndrome,”;

12 (B) in subsection (b)(20), by striking “and
13 service” and inserting “veterans service, and
14 other service”; and

15 (C) in subsection (e)(1), by inserting “vet-
16 erans (as such term is defined in section 101 of
17 title 38, United States Code),” after “homeless
18 persons,”.

19 (2) CONSOLIDATED PLANS.—The Secretary of
20 Housing and Urban Development shall revise the
21 regulations relating to submission of consolidated
22 plans (part 91 of title 24, Code of Federal Regula-
23 tions) in accordance with the amendments made by
24 paragraph (1) of this subsection to require inclusion

1 of appropriate information relating to veterans and
2 veterans service agencies in all such plans.

3 **SEC. 3. ANNUAL REPORT ON HOUSING ASSISTANCE TO VET-**
4 **ERANS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than December 31 of
6 each year, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Develop-
7 ment shall submit a report on the activities of the Depart-
8 ment of Housing and Urban Development relating to vet-
9 erans during such year to the following:

10 (1) The Committee on Banking, Housing, and
11 Urban Affairs of the Senate.

12 (2) The Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the
13 Senate.

14 (3) The Committee on Appropriations of the
15 Senate.

16 (4) The Committee on Financial Services of the
17 House of Representatives.

18 (5) The Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the
19 House of Representatives.

20 (6) The Committee on Appropriations of the
21 House of Representatives.

22 (7) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

23 (b) CONTENTS.—Each report required under sub-
24 section (a) shall include the following information with re-
25 spect to the year for which the report is submitted:

1 (1) The number of homeless veterans provided
2 assistance under the program of housing choice
3 vouchers for homeless veterans under section
4 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937
5 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)), the socioeconomic charac-
6 teristics and racial characteristics of such homeless
7 veterans, and the number, types, and locations of en-
8 tities contracted under such section to administer
9 the vouchers.

10 (2) The number of homeless veterans provided
11 assistance under the Tribal HUD–VA Supportive
12 Housing Program (HUD–VASH) authorized by the
13 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropria-
14 tions Act, 2015 (Pub. L. 113–235; 128 Stat. 2733)
15 the socioeconomic characteristics and racial charac-
16 teristics of such homeless veterans, and the number,
17 types, and locations of entities contracted under
18 such section to administer the vouchers.

19 (3) A summary description of the special con-
20 siderations made for veterans under public housing
21 agency plans submitted pursuant to section 5A of
22 the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.
23 1437c–1) and under comprehensive housing afford-
24 ability strategies submitted pursuant to section 105

1 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Hous-
2 ing Act (42 U.S.C. 12705).

3 (4) A description of the activities of the Special
4 Assistant for Veterans Affairs.

5 (5) A description of the efforts of the Depart-
6 ment of Housing and Urban Development to coordi-
7 nate the delivery of housing and services to veterans
8 with other Federal departments and agencies, in-
9 cluding the Department of Defense, Department of
10 Justice, Department of Labor, Department of
11 Health and Human Services, Department of Vet-
12 erans Affairs, Interagency Council on Homelessness,
13 and the Social Security Administration.

14 (6) The cost to the Department of Housing and
15 Urban Development of administering the programs
16 and activities relating to veterans.

17 (7) Any other information that the Secretary
18 considers relevant in assessing the programs and ac-
19 tivities of the Department of Housing and Urban
20 Development relating to veterans.

21 (c) ASSESSMENT OF HOUSING NEEDS OF VERY LOW-
22 INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—For the first report sub-
24 mitted pursuant to subsection (a) and every fifth re-

1 port thereafter, the Secretary of Housing and Urban
2 Development shall—

3 (A) conduct an assessment of the housing
4 needs of very low-income veteran families (as
5 such term is defined in paragraph 5); and

6 (B) shall include in each such report find-
7 ings regarding such assessment.

8 (2) CONTENT.—Each assessment under this
9 subsection shall include—

10 (A) conducting a survey of, and direct
11 interviews with, a representative sample of very
12 low-income veteran families (as such term is de-
13 fined in paragraph 5) to determine past and
14 current—

15 (i) socioeconomic characteristics of
16 such veteran families;

17 (ii) barriers to such veteran families
18 obtaining safe, quality, and affordable
19 housing;

20 (iii) levels of homelessness among
21 such veteran families; and

22 (iv) levels and circumstances of, and
23 barriers to, receipt by such veteran families
24 of rental housing and homeownership as-
25 sistance; and

1 (B) such other information that the Sec-
2 retary determines, in consultation with the Sec-
3 retary of Veterans Affairs and national non-
4 governmental organizations concerned with vet-
5 erans, homelessness, and very low-income hous-
6 ing, may be useful to the assessment.

7 (3) CONDUCT.—If the Secretary contracts with
8 an entity other than the Department of Housing and
9 Urban Development to conduct the assessment
10 under this subsection, such entity shall be a non-
11 governmental organization determined by the Sec-
12 retary to have appropriate expertise in quantitative
13 and qualitative social science research.

14 (4) FUNDING.—Of any amounts made available
15 pursuant to section 501 of the Housing and Urban
16 Development Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 1701z–1) for
17 programs of research, studies, testing, or demonstra-
18 tion relating to the mission or programs of the De-
19 partment of Housing and Urban Development for
20 any fiscal year in which an assessment under this
21 subsection is required pursuant to paragraph (1) of
22 this subsection, \$1,000,000 shall be available until
23 expended for costs of the assessment under this sub-
24 section.

1 (5) VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILY.—The
2 term “very low-income veteran family” means a vet-
3 eran family whose income does not exceed 50 per-
4 cent of the median income for the area, as deter-
5 mined by the Secretary with adjustments for smaller
6 and larger families, except that the Secretary may
7 establish an income ceiling higher or lower than 50
8 percent of the median for the area on the basis of
9 the Secretary’s findings that such variations are nec-
10 essary because of prevailing levels of construction
11 costs or fair market rents (as determined under sec-
12 tion 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42
13 U.S.C. 1437f)).

○