

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3749

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to entities that provide legal services for homeless veterans and veterans at risk for homelessness.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 12, 2019

Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. MAST, Mr. WALTZ, and Mr. BACON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to entities that provide legal services for homeless veterans and veterans at risk for homelessness.

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 “Legal Services for  
5 Homeless Veterans Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. LEGAL SERVICES FOR HOMELESS VETERANS AND**  
2 **VETERANS AT RISK FOR HOMELESSNESS.**

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

6 **“§ 2022A. Legal services for homeless veterans and**  
7 **veterans at risk for homelessness**

8 “(a) GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—  
9 Subject to the availability of appropriations provided for  
10 such purpose, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall make  
11 grants or enter into cooperative agreements to eligible en-  
12 tities that provide legal services to homeless veterans and  
13 veterans at risk for homelessness.

14 “(b) CRITERIA FOR GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE  
15 AGREEMENTS.—(1) The Secretary shall establish criteria  
16 and requirements for grants and cooperative agreements  
17 under this section, including criteria for entities eligible  
18 to receive such grants or cooperative agreements, and shall  
19 publish such criteria and requirements in the Federal Reg-  
20 ister.

21 “(2) In establishing criteria and requirements under  
22 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult with organiza-  
23 tions that have experience in providing services to home-  
24 less veterans.

25 “(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Secretary may make  
26 a grant or enter into a cooperative agreement under this

1 section to an entity applying for such a grant or coopera-  
2 tive agreement only if the applicant for the grant or coop-  
3 erative agreement—

4 “(1) is a public or nonprofit private entity with  
5 the capacity (as determined by the Secretary) to ef-  
6 fectively administer a grant or cooperative agree-  
7 ment under this section;

8 “(2) demonstrates that adequate financial sup-  
9 port will be available to carry out the services for  
10 which the grant or cooperative agreement is sought  
11 consistent with application; and

12 “(3) agrees to meet the applicable criteria and  
13 requirements established under subsection (b) and  
14 has, as determined by the Secretary, demonstrated  
15 the capacity to meet such criteria and requirements.

16 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds provided under grants  
17 or cooperative agreements under this section shall be used  
18 to provide legal services to homeless veterans and veterans  
19 at risk for homelessness to address legal matters that con-  
20 tribute to the risk of becoming and remaining homeless.

21 “(e) REPORTS.—On a biennial basis, the Secretary  
22 shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of  
23 the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on  
24 grants and cooperative agreements under this section. To

1 the extent feasible, each such report shall include the fol-  
2 lowing with respect to the year covered by the report:

3 “(1) The number of homeless veterans assisted.

4 “(2) A description of the legal services pro-  
5 vided.

6 “(3) A description of the legal matters ad-  
7 dressed.

8 “(4) An analysis by the Secretary with respect  
9 to the operational effectiveness and cost-effectiveness  
10 of the services provided.”.

11 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
12 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting  
13 after the item relating to section 2022 the following new  
14 item:

“2022A. Legal services for homeless veterans and veterans at risk for homeless-  
ness.”.

15 (c) CRITERIA.—Not later than 90 days after the date  
16 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans  
17 Affairs shall establish the criteria and requirements in the  
18 Federal Register pursuant to subsection (b)(1) of section  
19 2022A of title 38, United States Code, as added by sub-  
20 section (a).

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