

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3848

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 6, 2023

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT

To make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to homelessness, 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 “Housing our Military
3 Veterans Effectively Act of 2023” or the “HOME Act of
4 2023”.

5 **SEC. 2. PER DIEM PAYMENTS PROVIDED BY THE SEC-**
6 **RETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR SERV-**
7 **ICES FURNISHED TO HOMELESS VETERANS.**

8 Section 2012 of title 38, United States Code, is
9 amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a)—

11 (A) in paragraph (2)(B)—

12 (i) in clause (i)(II)(aa)(BB), by strik-
13 ing “115 percent” and inserting “133 per-
14 cent”; and

15 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “(iii) During each of fiscal years 2024 through 2026,
18 the Secretary may waive the maximum rate for per diem
19 payments under clause (i)(II)(aa)(BB) or (ii) and, subject
20 to the availability of appropriations, provide such pay-
21 ments at a rate that does not exceed 200 percent of the
22 rate authorized for State homes for domiciliary care under
23 subsection (a)(1)(A) of section 1741 of this title, as the
24 Secretary may increase from time to time under sub-
25 section (c) of that section if the Secretary notifies Con-
26 gress of such waiver.

1 “(iv) The Secretary may not, pursuant to clause (iii),
2 waive the maximum rate described in such clause for more
3 than 50 percent of all grant recipients and eligible entities
4 in a fiscal year.”; and

5 (B) by adding at the end the following new
6 paragraph:

7 “(4) The Secretary may not provide more than
8 12,000 per diem payments under this section in a fiscal
9 year.”; and

10 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
11 section:

12 “(f) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days
13 after the date of the enactment of the HOME Act of 2023,
14 and not less frequently than twice each year thereafter,
15 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’
16 Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Af-
17 fairs of the House of Representatives a report on the rate
18 for per diem payments under this section that includes,
19 for each Veterans Integrated Service Network of the De-
20 partment, the following data:

21 “(1) The average rate for such a payment.

22 “(2) A list of locations where the rate for such
23 a payment is within 10 percent of the maximum rate
24 for such a payment authorized under this section.

1 “(3) The average length of stay by a veteran
2 participating in a program described in section
3 2012(a) of this title.”.

4 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION FOR SECRETARY OF VETERANS**
5 **AFFAIRS TO USE OF CERTAIN FUNDS FOR IM-**
6 **PROVED FLEXIBILITY IN ASSISTANCE TO**
7 **HOMELESS VETERANS.**

8 (a) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
9 fairs may use amounts appropriated or otherwise made
10 available to the Department of Veterans Affairs to carry
11 out section 2011, 2012, 2031, or 2061 of title 38, United
12 States Code, to provide to a covered veteran, as the Sec-
13 retary determines necessary—

14 (1) food, shelter, clothing, blankets, and hy-
15 giene items required for the safety and survival of
16 the veteran;

17 (2) transportation required to support the sta-
18 bility and health of the veteran for appointments
19 with service providers, the conduct of housing
20 searches, and the obtainment of food and supplies;
21 and

22 (3) tablets, smartphones, disposable phones,
23 and related service plans required to support the
24 stability and health of the veteran through the main-

1 tenance of contact with service providers, prospective
2 landlords, and family members.

3 (b) HOMELESS VETERANS ON DEPARTMENT OF VET-
4 ERANS AFFAIRS LAND.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may collabo-
6 rate, to the extent practicable, with one or more or-
7 ganizations to manage the use of land of the Depart-
8 ment of Veterans Affairs for homeless veterans for
9 living and sleeping.

10 (2) FORMS OF COLLABORATION.—Collaboration
11 under paragraph (1) may include the provision by ei-
12 ther the Secretary or the head of the organization
13 concerned of food services and security for property,
14 buildings, and other facilities owned or controlled by
15 the Department of Veterans Affairs.

16 (c) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than six months
17 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every six
18 months thereafter until the date specified in subsection
19 (d), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that
20 includes, with respect to the period covered by such re-
21 port—

22 (1) a statement, disaggregated by each medical
23 center of the Department of Veterans Affairs, of the
24 amount of funds under this section—

1 (A) each such medical center requested
2 from the Secretary; and

3 (B) to which the Secretary provided each
4 such medical center;

5 (2) data, disaggregated by each such medical
6 center, relating to how each such medical center
7 used amounts provided by the Secretary under this
8 section;

9 (3) the number of covered veterans to which the
10 Secretary provided assistance under this section;

11 (4) the total amount of assistance the Secretary
12 provided to covered veterans pursuant to subsection
13 (a)(3) for communications equipment, broken down
14 by the type of equipment provided;

15 (5) the total amount of assistance the Secretary
16 provided covered veterans pursuant to subsection
17 (a)(2) for ridesharing;

18 (6) the number of covered veterans who re-
19 ceived such assistance; and

20 (7) a description, for each rideshare used by a
21 covered veteran with such assistance, of the reasons
22 such covered veteran used such rideshare.

23 (8) the number of covered veterans who lived or
24 slept on Department land;

1 (9) the amount of funds used to make available
2 Department land for covered veterans to live and
3 sleep;

4 (10) the number of Department employees
5 whose primary responsibilities involved providing
6 services for covered veterans living or sleeping on
7 Department land;

8 (11) the average length of time a covered vet-
9 eran lived or slept on Department land, and

10 (12) the period of time the Secretary expects
11 Department land will be made available for covered
12 veterans to live and sleep.

13 (d) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall
14 terminate on September 30, 2024.

15 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the term “covered
16 veteran” means—

17 (1) a homeless veteran; and

18 (2) a veteran participating in the program car-
19 ried out under section 8(o)(19) of the United States
20 Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)).

21 **SEC. 4. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN HOUSING LOAN FEES.**

22 The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38,
23 United States Code, is amended by striking “November

1 14, 2031” each place it appears and inserting “May 18,
2 2032”.

Passed the House of Representatives December 5,
2023.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.