

Union Calendar No. 112

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4035

[Report No. 117–154]

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to prioritize veterans court treatment programs that ensure equal access for racial and ethnic minorities and women, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 22, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself and Mr. NADLER) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

OCTOBER 25, 2021

Additional sponsor: Mr. RUTHERFORD

OCTOBER 25, 2021

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole
House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on June 22, 2021]

A BILL

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to prioritize veterans court treatment programs that ensure equal access for racial and ethnic minorities and women, 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 “Real Justice for Our*
 5 *Veterans Act of 2021”.*

6 **SEC. 2. EQUAL ACCESS TO VETERANS COURT TREATMENT**
 7 **PROGRAMS FOR RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORI-**
 8 **TIES AND WOMEN.**

9 *Section 2991(i)(2) of the Omnibus Crime Control and*
 10 *Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10651(i)(2)) is amended*
 11 *by adding at the end the following:*

12 *“(C) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after*
 13 *the date of enactment of this subparagraph, the*
 14 *Attorney General shall submit to Congress a re-*
 15 *port on the effectiveness of veterans treatment*
 16 *court programs. In preparing such a report, the*
 17 *Attorney General shall conduct a national multi-*
 18 *site evaluation of such programs, including an*
 19 *assessment of—*

20 *“(i) the population served by such pro-*
 21 *grams;*

22 *“(ii) whether such programs use evi-*
 23 *dence-based treatments for substance use*
 24 *and mental health, including medication for*
 25 *addiction treatment;*

1 “(iii) recidivism rates of participants
 2 in such programs;
 3 “(iv) program completion rates; and
 4 “(v) whether racial and ethnic minori-
 5 ties and women have equal access to such
 6 programs and an equal opportunity to com-
 7 plete such programs, including by collecting
 8 and analyzing data related to admission in
 9 such programs and completion of such pro-
 10 grams, to ensure there are not disparities
 11 related to race, ethnicity, or sex.”.

12 **SEC. 3. VETERANS PILOT PROGRAM ON PROMISING RETEN-**
 13 **TION MODELS.**

14 (a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—The Attorney General, acting
 15 through the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance,
 16 shall carry out a pilot program to make grants to eligible
 17 units of local government to improve retention in veterans
 18 treatment court programs (as such term is defined in sec-
 19 tion 2991 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets
 20 Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10651)) and drug court programs.

21 (b) *ELIGIBILITY.*—In order to be eligible for a grant
 22 under subsection (a), a unit of local government shall oper-
 23 ate a veterans treatment court program or a drug court.

24 (c) *APPLICATION.*—A unit of local government seeking
 25 a grant through the pilot program under subsection (a)

1 *shall submit to the Attorney General an application at such*
2 *time, in such manner, and containing such information as*
3 *the Attorney General may reasonably require, including—*

4 (1) *a description of the therapeutic or treatment*
5 *modality that the unit of local government plans to*
6 *implement and data to support the use of the thera-*
7 *peutic or treatment modality, including information*
8 *showing how the therapeutic or treatment modality*
9 *will promote retention in and completion of veterans*
10 *treatment court programs and drug court programs;*
11 *and*

12 (2) *detailed plans on how the applicant would*
13 *test the efficacy of the therapeutic or treatment mo-*
14 *dalidity.*

15 (d) *REPORTING METRICS.—Not later than 180 days*
16 *after receiving a grant under subsection (a), a unit of local*
17 *government shall submit to the Attorney General a report,*
18 *which includes demographic information of participants in*
19 *the veterans treatment court program, and completion rates*
20 *of such participants. The Attorney General shall develop*
21 *guidelines for the report required under this subsection.*

22 (e) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is*
23 *authorized to be appropriated \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal*
24 *years 2022 through 2027 to carry out this section.*

1 **SEC. 4. ADMISSION OF VETERANS TO DRUG COURTS.**

2 *In the case of a jurisdiction that does not operate a*
3 *veterans treatment court program (as such term is defined*
4 *in section 2991 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe*
5 *Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10651)), but that does oper-*
6 *ate a drug court under part EE of the Omnibus Crime Con-*
7 *trol and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10611 et seq.),*
8 *a veteran who would be eligible to participate in a veterans*
9 *treatment court program may participate in the drug court,*
10 *including a veteran who is a violent offender (as such term*
11 *is defined in section 2953(a) of the Omnibus Crime Control*
12 *and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10613(a))).*

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