

Union Calendar No. 550

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 3863

[Report No. 119-634]

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish annual mental health consultations to certain veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 10, 2025

Ms. BUDZINSKI (for herself and Mr. EDWARDS) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

MAY 4, 2026

Additional sponsors: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. GOODLANDER

MAY 4, 2026

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 10, 2025]

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish annual mental health consultations to certain 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 “VA Mental Health Out-*
 5 *reach and Engagement Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATIONS AND OUTREACH**
 7 **TO A VETERAN RECEIVING COMPENSATION**
 8 **FOR A SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY RE-**
 9 **LATING TO A MENTAL HEALTH DIAGNOSIS.**

10 *(a) ANNUAL CONSULTATION; OUTREACH.—The section*
 11 *1167 of title 38, United States Code, relating to mental*
 12 *health consultations is amended—*

13 *(1) in subsection (a), in the subsection heading,*
 14 *by striking “IN GENERAL” and inserting “INITIAL*
 15 *CONSULTATION”;*

16 *(2) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as*
 17 *subsections (d) and (e), respectively;*

18 *(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following*
 19 *new subsections:*

20 *“(b) ANNUAL CONSULTATION; OUTREACH.—Not less*
 21 *frequently than once each year, the Secretary shall, with*
 22 *regards to a veteran who is receiving compensation under*
 23 *this chapter for a service-connected disability relating to a*
 24 *mental health diagnosis—*

1 “(1) offer a mental health consultation to assess
2 the mental health needs of, and discuss other mental
3 health care options for, the veteran; and

4 “(2) conduct outreach (unless a veteran elects not
5 to receive such outreach)—

6 “(A) regarding the availability of consulta-
7 tions under paragraph (1) and other mental
8 health services furnished by the Secretary; and

9 “(B) using methods described in subsection
10 (c).

11 “(c) *OUTREACH METHODS*.—Outreach methods de-
12 scribed in this subsection consist of—

13 “(1) successfully contacting the veteran by tele-
14 phone call or text message;

15 “(2) if the Secretary does not make such contact,
16 not fewer than two telephone calls or text messages; or

17 “(3) if the Secretary does not have a telephone
18 number for the veteran—

19 “(A) at least one email; or

20 “(B) if the Secretary does not have an
21 email address for the veteran, at least one let-
22 ter.”;

23 (4) in subsection (c), as redesignated by para-
24 graph (2), by inserting “or (b)” after “under sub-
25 section (a)” both places it appears; and

1 (5) *in subsection (d), as redesignated by para-*
 2 *graph (2), by inserting “, or to require the reevalua-*
 3 *tion of any entitlement of the veteran to compensation*
 4 *under this chapter” before the period at the end.*

5 (b) *TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—*

6 (1) *REDESIGNATION.—Such section, as amended,*
 7 *is redesignated as section 1169 of such title.*

8 (2) *CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of sec-*
 9 *tions at the beginning of chapter 11 of such title is*
 10 *amended—*

11 (A) *by striking the item relating to the sec-*
 12 *tion 1167 that relates to mental health consulta-*
 13 *tions; and*

14 (B) *by inserting after the item relating to*
 15 *section 1168 the following new item:*

“1169. *Mental health consultations.*”.

16 (c) *ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after*
 17 *the date of the enactment of this section and annually there-*
 18 *after for three additional years, the Secretary of Veterans*
 19 *Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs*
 20 *of the Senate and House of Representatives a report regard-*
 21 *ing the outreach methods under subsection (c) of section*
 22 *1169 of such title. Elements of such report shall include the*
 23 *following:*

24 (1) *The respective rates of success, in attempting*
 25 *to contact veterans, for such methods.*

1 (2) *With regards to each such method, the num-*
 2 *ber of times and percentage of attempts that the Sec-*
 3 *retary determined such attempt was unsuccessful.*

4 (3) *With regards to unsuccessful attempts de-*
 5 *scribed in paragraph (2), a breakdown of which other*
 6 *methods of outreach the Secretary used to attempt to*
 7 *contact veterans.*

8 (4) *With regards to each such method, the num-*
 9 *ber of times and percentage of attempts that led to a*
 10 *veteran engaging with mental health services fur-*
 11 *nished by the Secretary.*

12 (5) *The number and percentage of veterans who*
 13 *elected not to receive such outreach.*

14 (d) *GAO REVIEW.*—*Not later than two years after the*
 15 *date of the enactment of this section, the Comptroller Gen-*
 16 *eral of the United States shall submit to the Committees*
 17 *on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representa-*
 18 *tives a report on the effect of the amendments made by this*
 19 *section. Elements of such report shall include—*

20 (1) *the number of veterans who received—*

21 (A) *mental health consultations under para-*
 22 *graph (1) of subsection (b) of section 1169 of*
 23 *such title;*

24 (B) *outreach under paragraph (2) of such*
 25 *subsection; and*

1 (C) which outreach method under subsection
2 (c) of such section was the most effective method
3 to reach a veteran;
4 (2) whether veterans reported barriers to seeking
5 such consultations; and
6 (3) such barriers, if any.

7 **SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN HOUSING LOAN FEES.**

8 The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38,
9 United States Code, is amended by striking “June 9, 2034”
10 each place it appears and inserting “May 12, 2035”.

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