

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8044

To improve the provision of services from the Department of Veterans Affairs to incarcerated veterans, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 24, 2026

Mr. CONAWAY (for himself and Mr. LUTTRELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To improve the provision of services from the Department of Veterans Affairs to incarcerated 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 “Get Justice-Involved  
5 Veterans Behavioral Assistance and Care for Key Health  
6 Outcomes to Maintain Empowerment Act” or the “Get  
7 Justice-Involved Veterans BACK HOME Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH**  
2 **CARE TO INCARCERATED VETERANS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
4 shall carry out a pilot program to furnish mental health  
5 care to incarcerated veterans (in this section referred to  
6 as the “pilot program”), with a priority given to veterans  
7 with a service-connected disability relating to—

8 (1) post-traumatic stress disorder;

9 (2) traumatic brain injury; or

10 (3) military sexual trauma.

11 (b) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall carry out the  
12 pilot program at not fewer than five facilities, which  
13 shall—

14 (1) represent large and small facilities and  
15 urban and rural settings; and

16 (2) have separate housing units for veterans  
17 that have already been established by the facility.

18 (c) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall develop the  
19 pilot program in coordination with relevant State or Fed-  
20 eral agencies responsible for the incarceration of veterans.

21 (d) SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pilot  
23 program, the Secretary shall provide to incarcerated  
24 veterans telemental health services, if the facility at  
25 which the veteran is incarcerated has necessary in-  
26 frastructure for the provision of such services.

1           (2) OTHER SERVICES.—If the provision of tele-  
2           mental health services under paragraph (1) is not  
3           feasible, the Secretary shall provide to incarcerated  
4           veterans under the pilot program—

5                   (A) mental health services through the use  
6                   of mobile mental health units close to the facil-  
7                   ity at which the veteran is incarcerated through  
8                   the Department of Veterans Affairs or a Vet  
9                   Center; or

10                   (B) mental health services through other  
11                   means, as determined appropriate by the Sec-  
12                   retary.

13           (3) COPAYMENT.—The Secretary shall not  
14           charge a copayment for the receipt of services under  
15           the pilot program.

16           (e) HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.—

17                   (1) DIRECT CARE.—The Secretary shall furnish  
18                   mental health care under the pilot program through  
19                   the use of health care providers of the Department  
20                   and may not use non-Department health care pro-  
21                   viders.

22                   (2) TREATMENT AND ASSESSMENT.—A health  
23                   care provider providing mental health care under the  
24                   pilot program shall provide treatment and assess-  
25                   ment of medical conditions and is not to provide as-

1        sessment or evaluation of current or future disability  
2        claims.

3            (3) HUB.—In carrying out the pilot program,  
4        the Secretary shall create a hub of health care pro-  
5        viders that—

6            (A) only provide care to incarcerated vet-  
7        erans; and

8            (B) operate separate from any medical fa-  
9        cility or Veterans Integrated Service Network of  
10       the Department.

11       (f) FURNISHING OF CARE.—The Secretary shall  
12       carry out the pilot program notwithstanding section  
13       1710(h) of title 38, United States Code.

14       (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15            (1) INCARCERATED VETERAN.—The term “in-  
16        carcerated veteran” means a veteran who is incar-  
17       cerated in a Federal, State, local, or other penal in-  
18       stitution or correctional facility.

19            (2) MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.—The term  
20        “military sexual trauma” means sexual assault or  
21        sexual harassment experienced by an individual dur-  
22        ing service in the Armed Forces.

23            (3) SERVICE-CONNECTED; VETERAN.—The  
24        terms “service-connected” and “veteran” have the

1 meanings given those terms in section 101 of title  
2 38, United States Code.

3 (4) VET CENTER.—The term “Vet Center” has  
4 the meaning given that term in section 1712A(h) of  
5 such title.

6 **SEC. 3. SEPARATE HOUSING UNITS FOR INCARCERATED**  
7 **VETERANS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 301 of title 18, United  
9 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
10 lowing:

11 **“§ 4015. Housing for incarcerated veterans**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Bureau of  
13 Prisons shall, wherever feasible, establish dedicated wards  
14 or housing units for incarcerated veterans in Federal cor-  
15 rectional institutions, which shall provide an environment  
16 conducive to the discipline, structure, and order familiar  
17 to veterans in order to facilitate more effective mental  
18 health treatment, peer support, and rehabilitation efforts.

19 “(b) TRAINING AND RESOURCES.—The head of each  
20 Federal correctional institution with a veteran housing  
21 unit described in subsection (a) shall collaborate with local  
22 facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure  
23 that, with respect to that housing unit, correctional staff  
24 are trained regarding, resources are allocated for, and re-

1 habilitation programming is tailored to the needs of vet-  
 2 erans.

3 “(c) PROGRAMS.—In the case of a Federal correc-  
 4 tional institution lacking the capacity or resources for a  
 5 housing unit described in subsection (a), the Director of  
 6 the Bureau of Prisons shall, at a minimum, create struc-  
 7 tured veteran-focused programs aimed at providing similar  
 8 benefits, with oversight and support coordinated through  
 9 the Department of Veterans Affairs.”.

10 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
 11 for chapter 301 of title 18, United States Code, is amend-  
 12 ed by inserting after the item relating to section 4014 the  
 13 following:

“4015. Housing for incarcerated veterans.”.

14 **SEC. 4. AUTOMATIC RESUMPTION OF PAYMENT OF COM-**  
 15 **PENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEM-**  
 16 **NITY COMPENSATION TO PERSONS INCAR-**  
 17 **CERATED FOR CONVICTION OF A FELONY**  
 18 **AFTER PERIOD OF INCARCERATION ENDS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5313(a) of title 38,  
 20 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the  
 21 following:

22 “(3) The Secretary shall ensure that, for any indi-  
 23 vidual whose receipt of compensation or dependency and  
 24 indemnity compensation is interrupted pursuant to para-  
 25 graph (1) for a period of incarceration, resumption of such

1 payments resume automatically on the date on which the  
 2 individual is released from incarceration.”.

3 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by  
 4 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 180  
 5 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

6 **SEC. 5. SURVEY ON INCARCERATED VETERANS.**

7 Section 302 of part C of title I of the Omnibus Crime  
 8 Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10132)  
 9 is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (c)—

11 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (15)  
 12 through (23) as paragraphs (16) through (24),  
 13 respectively; and

14 (B) by inserting after paragraph (14) the  
 15 following:

16 “(15) collect and analyze comprehensive infor-  
 17 mation concerning the incarceration of veterans (as  
 18 defined in section 101 of title 38, United States  
 19 Code);”; and

20 (2) in subsection (g)—

21 (A) by striking “Not later than” and in-  
 22 serting the following:

23 “(1) **CRIMES IN INDIAN COUNTRY.**—Not later  
 24 than”; and

25 (B) by adding at the end the following:

1           “(2) INCARCERATED VETERANS.—Not later  
2           than 180 days after the date of enactment of this  
3           paragraph, and annually thereafter, the Director  
4           shall submit to Congress a report describing the  
5           data collected and analyzed under this section relat-  
6           ing to veterans (as defined in section 101 of title 38,  
7           United States Code) who are incarcerated in State  
8           and Federal prisons.”.

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