

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5361

To improve the use and management of mobile medical units by the
Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 7, 2026

Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. SHEEHY) introduced the following bill; which
was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To improve the use and management of mobile medical units
by the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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 “Mobile Medical Unit
5 Rural Expansion Act of 2026” or the “MMU Rural Ex-
6 pansion Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF EXISTING OFFICE TO SERVE AS**
2 **PROGRAM OWNER OF MOBILE MEDICAL UNIT**
3 **PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
4 **AFFAIRS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
6 shall designate the head of an existing office of the De-
7 partment of Veterans Affairs to serve as the program
8 owner of the Mobile Medical Unit Program of the Depart-
9 ment.

10 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The head of the office des-
11 ignated under subsection (a) shall be responsible for—

12 (1) overseeing deployments of mobile medical
13 units of the Department;

14 (2) coordinating with leadership of medical cen-
15 ters of the Department with respect to such units;

16 (3) managing data collection with respect to
17 such units;

18 (4) identifying the funding and procurement
19 sources that exist for such units and that are avail-
20 able to help deploy such units to medical centers of
21 the Department; and

22 (5) integrating such units, as appropriate, into
23 broader access-to-care strategies of the Veterans
24 Health Administration.

1 **SEC. 3. NATIONWIDE INVENTORY AND CAPABILITY ASSESS-**
2 **MENT OF MOBILE MEDICAL UNITS OF DE-**
3 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
5 shall conduct a nationwide inventory and capability assess-
6 ment with respect to mobile medical units of the Depart-
7 ment of Veterans Affairs.

8 (b) ELEMENTS.—The assessment required under
9 subsection (a) shall include an assessment of the following:

10 (1) The total number of mobile medical units of
11 the Department, including the different types of mo-
12 bile medical unit models used by the Department.

13 (2) The age, condition, and readiness of such
14 units and what sort of maintenance such units need.

15 (3) Where such units are currently located and
16 the accessibility of mobile medical unit deployment
17 sites.

18 (4) How often each such unit is used and for
19 what services each such unit is used.

20 (5) Patient-level data with respect to each such
21 unit.

22 (6) Accessibility and lift capability across the
23 mobile medical unit fleet of the Department, includ-
24 ing an assessment of the wheelchair accessibility of
25 deployment locations for each such unit.

1 (7) Existing unmet needs or access barriers
2 within the Department that such units could fill,
3 when clinically and operationally appropriate.

4 **SEC. 4. ASSESSMENT OF FEASIBILITY AND ADVISABILITY**
5 **OF REQUIRING ANNUAL DEPLOYMENT OF**
6 **MOBILE MEDICAL UNITS TO CERTAIN AREAS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
9 erans Affairs shall conduct an assessment to determine
10 the feasibility and advisability of requiring certain medical
11 centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs to deploy
12 mobile medical units to rural or underserved areas at least
13 once per year to improve access to medical services by vet-
14 erans and other individuals eligible for health care under
15 the laws administered by the Secretary.

16 (b) ELEMENTS.—The assessment required by sub-
17 section (a) shall—

18 (1) incorporate findings from the nationwide in-
19 ventory and capability assessment required by sec-
20 tion 3;

21 (2) include proposed criteria the Secretary
22 could use to determine which medical centers of the
23 Department should be subject to the requirement de-
24 scribed in subsection (a);

1 (3) include proposed rural or underserved areas
2 where mobile medical units could be required to be
3 deployed at least once per year to improve access to
4 medical services by veterans and other individuals;

5 (4) include a proposed list of services that mo-
6 bile medical units could provide safely and appro-
7 priately in rural or underserved areas;

8 (5) include an estimate of the number of vet-
9 erans or other individuals who could access medical
10 services through a mobile medical unit deployed to
11 a rural or underserved area; and

12 (6) include an assessment of the ideal frequency
13 of such deployments in consideration of—

14 (A) the ability of veterans and other indi-
15 viduals in such areas to access services identi-
16 fied under paragraph (4);

17 (B) the cost to the Department to deploy
18 mobile medical units to such areas; and

19 (C) such other factors as the Secretary
20 considers appropriate.

21 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after com-
22 pleting the assessment required by subsection (a), the Sec-
23 retary shall submit the assessment to the Committee on
24 Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Vet-
25 erans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

1 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
3 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
4 erans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’
5 Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Af-
6 fairs of the House of Representatives a report—

7 (1) identifying gaps and opportunities to ex-
8 pand the appropriate use by the Department of Vet-
9 erans Affairs of mobile medical units in rural or un-
10 derserved areas, including by identifying the gaps
11 between the capabilities of such units and the needs
12 of veterans in rural areas;

13 (2) identifying areas that medical centers of the
14 Department serve with high rural veteran popu-
15 lations or that are near high rural veteran popu-
16 lations;

17 (3) identifying staffing barriers, clinical support
18 and resources, funding barriers, accessibility bar-
19 riers, information technology, and training barriers
20 to improving the appropriate use of mobile medical
21 units;

22 (4) identifying ways the Department can en-
23 gage with local veterans service organizations to fur-
24 ther identify suitable and accessible locations for mo-
25 bile medical unit deployments;

1 (5) identifying how the head of the office des-
2 ignated under section 2(a) can focus on rectifying
3 the barriers identified under paragraph (3);

4 (6) including the findings of the Secretary from
5 the assessment conducted under section 3;

6 (7) assessing the findings of the Secretary in
7 response to the report of the Comptroller General of
8 the United States published on December 14, 2023,
9 and titled “VA Health Care: Actions Needed to Im-
10 prove Information Reported on Mobile Medical
11 Units”;

12 (8) describing any actions taken by the Sec-
13 retary in response to the Comptroller General report
14 specified under paragraph (7); and

15 (9) recommending any legislative or administra-
16 tive action necessary to improve the use of mobile
17 medical units by the Department.

18 (b) VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—
19 In this section, the term “veterans service organization”
20 means an organization recognized by the Secretary for the
21 representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38,
22 United States Code.

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