

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1754

To require that a portion of the amounts made available for housing programs for the homeless be used for activities designed to serve primarily homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 3, 1997

Mr. METCALF (for himself and Mr. STUMP) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services

A BILL

To require that a portion of the amounts made available for housing programs for the homeless be used for activities designed to serve primarily homeless 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 “Robert Stodola Home-
5 less Veterans Assistance Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title IV of the Stew-
8 art B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.

1 11361 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the follow-
 2 ing new section:

3 **“SEC. 402. DEFINITION OF VETERAN.**

4 “For purposes of this title, the term ‘veteran’ has the
 5 meaning given such term in section 101 of title 38, United
 6 States Code.”.

7 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
 8 in section 101(b) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless
 9 Assistance Act is amended by inserting after the item re-
 10 lating to section 401 the following new item:

“Sec. 402. Definition of veteran.”.

11 **SEC. 3. EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANTS PROGRAM.**

12 Section 413 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless
 13 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11373) is amended by adding
 14 at the end the following new subsection:

15 “(f) VETERANS’ SHARE.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each metropolitan city,
 17 urban county, State, and Indian tribe for which as-
 18 sistance under this subtitle is provided shall ensure
 19 that not less than 20 percent of the total amount re-
 20 ceived by the city, county, State, or tribe in each fis-
 21 cal year shall be used for eligible activities designed
 22 to serve primarily homeless persons who are veter-
 23 ans. Such activities shall, to the extent possible, be
 24 integrated and coordinated with services made avail-
 25 able by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

1 “(2) EXCEPTION.—Upon the request of a met-
2 ropolitan city, urban county, State, or Indian tribe,
3 the Secretary may, with respect to a fiscal year,
4 waive the requirement under paragraph (1) or re-
5 duce the percentage under such paragraph for the
6 city, county, State, or tribe if the city, county, State,
7 or tribe demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Sec-
8 retary, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs con-
9 curs in the determination, that but for such waiver
10 or reduction amounts of assistance under this sub-
11 title for the city, county, State, or tribe will remain
12 unused for an unreasonable period of time.

13 “(3) REPORTS BY GRANTEEES.—Each metropoli-
14 tan city, urban county, State, and Indian tribe for
15 which assistance under this subtitle is provided for
16 a fiscal year shall submit a report to the Secretary
17 and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for such fiscal
18 year describing each project and activity funded with
19 such assistance that is designed to serve primarily
20 homeless persons who are veterans, the location of
21 the project or activity, and the amount of such as-
22 sistance provided for the project or activity.”.

1 **SEC. 4. SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM.**

2 (a) SELECTION CRITERIA.—Section 426(b) of the
3 Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
4 11386(b)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (6) by striking “and” at the
6 end;

7 (2) by redesignating paragraph (7) as para-
8 graph (8); and

9 (3) by inserting after paragraph (6) the follow-
10 ing new paragraph:

11 “(7) such factors as the Secretary, after con-
12 sultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
13 considers necessary to ensure compliance with the
14 requirements under section 429(b)(4); and”.

15 (b) VETERANS’ SHARE.—Section 429(b) of the Stew-
16 art B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
17 11389(b)) is amended—

18 (1) in paragraph (2) by striking “and” at the
19 end;

20 (2) in paragraph (3) by striking the period at
21 the end and inserting “; and”; and

22 (3) by adding at the end the following new
23 paragraph:

24 “(4) not less than 20 percent shall be allocated
25 for use only for projects and supportive services de-

1 signed to serve primarily homeless persons who are
2 veterans, except that—

3 “(A) the Secretary shall make assistance
4 available with such amounts only after consulta-
5 tion with and upon the concurrence of the Sec-
6 retary of Veterans Affairs;

7 “(B) projects and services provided with
8 amounts allocated under this paragraph shall,
9 to the extent possible, be integrated and coordi-
10 nated with services made available by the De-
11 partment of Veterans Affairs; and

12 “(C) the Secretary may, with respect to a
13 fiscal year, waive the requirement to reserve
14 amounts under this paragraph or reduce the
15 percentage so reserved if the Secretary deter-
16 mines (based on approvable applications sub-
17 mitted for assistance under this subtitle), and
18 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs concurs in the
19 determination, that but for such waiver or re-
20 duction amounts appropriated for such fiscal
21 year to carry out this subtitle will remain un-
22 used for an unreasonable period of time.”.

23 (c) REPORT.—Section 426(c)(4) of the Stewart B.
24 McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
25 11386(c)(4)) is amended by inserting before the semicolon

1 at the end the following: “, which shall include, in the case
 2 of an applicant carrying out a project designed to serve
 3 primarily homeless persons who are veterans, reporting to
 4 the Secretary and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for
 5 such fiscal year regarding the activities funded during
 6 such fiscal year with such assistance that are designed to
 7 serve primarily homeless persons who are veterans, the lo-
 8 cation of the project and of such activities, and the
 9 amount of such assistance provided for the project or such
 10 activities.”.

11 **SEC. 5. SAFE HAVENS FOR HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS DEM-**
 12 **ONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

13 (a) SELECTION CRITERIA.—Section 434(c) of the
 14 Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
 15 11394(c)) is amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (6) by striking “and” at the
 17 end;

18 (2) by redesignating paragraph (7) as para-
 19 graph (8); and

20 (3) by inserting after paragraph (6) the follow-
 21 ing new paragraph:

22 “(7) such factors as the Secretary, after con-
 23 sultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
 24 considers necessary to ensure compliance with the
 25 requirements under subsection (e); and”.

1 (b) VETERANS' SHARE.—Section 434 of the Stewart
2 B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act is amended by add-
3 ing at the end the following new subsection:

4 “(e) VETERANS' SHARE.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In making grants to appli-
6 cants under this subtitle, the Secretary shall ensure
7 that not less than 20 percent of the amount made
8 available for each fiscal year to carry out this sub-
9 title is used for eligible activities designed to serve
10 primarily homeless persons who are veterans, which
11 activities shall, to the extent possible, be integrated
12 and coordinated with services made available by the
13 Department of Veterans Affairs. A grant shall be
14 considered to comply with the requirement under
15 preceding sentence only if the Secretary consults
16 with and obtains the concurrence of the Secretary of
17 Veterans Affairs in making the grant.

18 “(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may, with re-
19 spect to a fiscal year, waive the requirement under
20 paragraph (1) or reduce the percentage under such
21 paragraph if the Secretary determines (based on ap-
22 provable applications submitted for assistance under
23 this subtitle), and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
24 concurs in the determination, that but for such waiv-
25 er or reduction amounts made available for such fis-

1 cal year to carry out this subtitle will remain unused
2 for an unreasonable period of time.

3 “(3) REPORTS BY RECIPIENTS.—Each recipient
4 provided assistance under this subtitle for a fiscal
5 year shall submit a report to the Secretary and the
6 Secretary of Veterans Affairs for such fiscal year de-
7 scribing each facility and activity funded with such
8 assistance that is designed to serve primarily home-
9 less persons who are veterans, the location of the fa-
10 cility or activity, and the amount of such assistance
11 provided for the facility or activity.”.

12 **SEC. 6. SECTION 8 PROGRAM FOR SINGLE ROOM OCCU-**
13 **PANCY DWELLINGS.**

14 (a) SELECTION CRITERIA.—Section 441(c) of the
15 Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
16 11401(c)) is amended by striking the period at the end
17 of the first sentence and inserting the following: “, while
18 ensuring compliance with the requirements under sub-
19 section (k). The Secretary, after consultation with the Sec-
20 retary of Veterans Affairs, shall establish any criteria for
21 such competition necessary to ensure compliance with the
22 requirements under subsection (k).”.

23 (b) VETERANS’ SHARE.—Section 441 of the Stewart
24 B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act is amended by add-
25 ing at the end the following new subsection:

1 “(k) VETERANS’ SHARE.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In allocating amounts to
3 applicants under this section, the Secretary shall en-
4 sure that not less than 20 percent of the amounts
5 made available for each fiscal year to carry out this
6 section are used for assistance designed to serve pri-
7 marily homeless persons who are veterans, which as-
8 sistance shall, to the extent possible, be integrated
9 and coordinated with services made available by the
10 Department of Veterans Affairs. Assistance shall be
11 considered to comply with the requirement under
12 preceding sentence only if the Secretary consults
13 with and obtains the concurrence of the Secretary of
14 Veterans Affairs in allocating the assistance.

15 “(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may, with re-
16 spect to a fiscal year, waive the requirement under
17 paragraph (1) or reduce the percentage under such
18 paragraph if the Secretary determines (based on ap-
19 provable applications submitted for assistance under
20 this section), and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
21 concurs in the determination, that but for such waiv-
22 er or reduction amounts made available for such fis-
23 cal year to carry out this section will remain unused
24 for an unreasonable period of time.

1 “(3) REPORTS BY RECIPIENTS.—Each appli-
2 cant that receives assistance under this section for
3 a fiscal year shall submit a report to the Secretary
4 and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for such fiscal
5 year describing each dwelling unit occupied by a
6 homeless person who is a veteran that is assisted
7 with such assistance, the location of the dwelling
8 unit, and the amount of such assistance provided for
9 the dwelling unit.”.

10 **SEC. 7. SHELTER PLUS CARE PROGRAM.**

11 (a) SELECTION CRITERIA.—Section 455(a) of the
12 Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
13 11403d(a)) is amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (8) by striking “and” at the
15 end;

16 (2) by redesignating paragraph (9) as para-
17 graph (10); and

18 (3) by inserting after paragraph (8) the follow-
19 ing new paragraph:

20 “(9) such factors as the Secretary, after con-
21 sultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
22 considers necessary to ensure compliance with the
23 requirements under subsection (d); and”.

1 (b) VETERANS' SHARE.—Section 455 of the Stewart
2 B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act is amended by add-
3 ing at the end the following new subsection:

4 “(d) VETERANS' SHARE.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In providing assistance to
6 applicants under this subtitle, the Secretary shall en-
7 sure that not less than 20 percent of the amount
8 made available for each fiscal year to carry out this
9 subtitle is used for rental assistance designed to
10 serve primarily homeless persons who are veterans,
11 which assistance shall, to the extent possible, be in-
12 tegrated and coordinated with services made avail-
13 able by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Assist-
14 ance shall be considered to comply with the require-
15 ment under preceding sentence only if the Secretary
16 consults with and obtains the concurrence of the
17 Secretary of Veterans Affairs in providing the assist-
18 ance.

19 “(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may, with re-
20 spect to a fiscal year, waive the requirement under
21 paragraph (1) or reduce the percentage under such
22 paragraph if the Secretary determines (based on ap-
23 provable applications submitted for assistance under
24 this subtitle), and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
25 concurs in the determination, that but for such waiv-

1 er or reduction amounts made available for such fis-
2 cal year to carry out this subtitle will remain unused
3 for an unreasonable period of time.

4 “(3) REPORTS BY RECIPIENTS.—Each recipient
5 provided assistance under this subtitle for a fiscal
6 year shall submit a report to the Secretary and the
7 Secretary of Veterans Affairs for such fiscal year de-
8 scribing assistance funded with such amounts that is
9 designed to serve primarily homeless persons who
10 are veterans, the location of the housing or activity
11 so assisted, and the amount of such assistance pro-
12 vided for the housing or activity.”.

13 **SEC. 8. RURAL HOMELESSNESS GRANT PROGRAM.**

14 Section 491(c) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless
15 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11408(c)) is amended by add-
16 ing at the end the following new paragraph:

17 “(4) VETERANS’ SHARE.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In awarding grants
19 under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the Sec-
20 retary shall ensure that not less than 20 per-
21 cent of the amount made available for the fiscal
22 year for such grants is used for eligible activi-
23 ties under subsection (b) designed to serve pri-
24 marily homeless persons who are veterans,
25 which activities shall, to the extent possible, be

1 integrated and coordinated with services made
2 available by the Department of Veterans Af-
3 fairs. A grant shall be considered to comply
4 with the requirement under preceding sentence
5 only if the Secretary consults with and obtains
6 the concurrence of the Secretary of Veterans
7 Affairs in providing the grant.

8 “(B) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may,
9 with respect to a fiscal year, waive the require-
10 ment under subparagraph (A) or reduce the
11 percentage under such subparagraph if the Sec-
12 retary determines (based on approvable applica-
13 tions submitted for grants under this section),
14 and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs concurs
15 in the determination, that but for such waiver
16 or reduction amounts made available for such
17 fiscal year to carry out this section will remain
18 unused for an unreasonable period of time.

19 “(C) REPORTS BY RECIPIENTS.—Each eli-
20 gible organization receiving a grant under this
21 section for a fiscal year shall submit a report to
22 the Secretary and the Secretary of Veterans Af-
23 fairs for such fiscal year describing assistance
24 funded with such amounts that is designed to
25 serve primarily homeless persons who are veter-

1 ans, the location of the housing or activities so
2 assisted, and the amount of such amounts pro-
3 vided for the housing or activities.”.

4 **SEC. 9. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ANNUAL REPORTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title IV of the Stew-
6 art B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C
7 11361), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is further
8 amended by adding at the end the following new section:

9 **“SEC. 403. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND REPORTS RE-**
10 **GARDING ACTIVITIES BENEFITING HOME-**
11 **LESS VETERANS.**

12 “(a) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary, after
13 consultation with and upon the concurrence of the Sec-
14 retary of Veterans Affairs, shall carry out a program to
15 provide technical advice, training, and outreach activities
16 necessary to facilitate and encourage the funding, with
17 grant amounts under this title, of projects and activities
18 designed to serve primarily homeless persons who are vet-
19 erans. The program shall include—

20 “(1) providing notice of availability of amounts
21 set-aside under this title for eligible activities de-
22 signed to serve primarily homeless persons who are
23 veterans to agencies and organizations who are
24 qualified or could qualify as grantees for such
25 amounts and project sponsors for such activities;

1 “(2) increasing participation, by agencies and
2 organizations interested in carrying out eligible ac-
3 tivities designed to serve primarily homeless persons
4 who are veterans, in developing plans required under
5 section 401;

6 “(3) providing assistance to increase the capa-
7 bility of such agencies and organizations in develop-
8 ing plans and applications for grants under this title
9 and activities funded with such grant amounts (in-
10 cluding providing assistance in integrating and co-
11 ordinating such activities with services made avail-
12 able by the Department of Veterans Affairs).

13 “(b) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 6 months
14 after the conclusion of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall
15 submit a report to the Congress and the Secretary of Vet-
16 erans Affairs regarding activities and assistance provided
17 with grant amounts under this title that are designed to
18 serve primarily homeless persons who are veterans. The
19 report shall analyze the extent of compliance with the re-
20 quirements under this title to reserve amounts for such
21 activities and assistance and shall summarize the reports
22 regarding such assistance and activities submitted under
23 sections 413(f)(3), 426(c)(4), 434(e)(3), 441(k)(3),
24 455(d)(3), and 491(c)(4)(C) by grant recipients. After
25 submitting each report under this subsection, the Sec-

1 retary shall consult with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
2 regarding any recommendations of such Secretary in re-
3 sponse to the report.”.

4 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
5 in section 101(b) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless
6 Assistance Act is amended by inserting after the item re-
7 lating to section 402 (as added by section 2(b) of this Act)
8 the following new item:

“Sec. 403. Technical assistance and reports regarding activities benefiting
homeless veterans.”.

