

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 374

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to notify local law enforcement agencies of allegations of a missing patient or of certain crimes or other misconduct at medical facilities under the jurisdiction of that Secretary and to enable such agencies to investigate such allegations.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 19, 1999

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to notify local law enforcement agencies of allegations of a missing patient or of certain crimes or other misconduct at medical facilities under the jurisdiction of that Secretary and to enable such agencies to investigate such allegations.

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 “Veterans Personal Se-
5 curity Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NOTIFICATION TO AND INVESTIGATION BY LOCAL**
2 **LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OF REPORTS**
3 **OF A MISSING PATIENT OR OF CERTAIN**
4 **CRIMES AND OTHER MISCONDUCT AT DE-**
5 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL**
6 **FACILITIES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 9 of title 38, United
8 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the follow-
9 ing new section:

10 **“§ 906. Reports of missing patients and of certain**
11 **crimes or other misconduct: notification**
12 **to and investigation by local law enforce-**
13 **ment agencies**

14 “(a) If the Department receives notice of a reportable
15 allegation described in subsection (b), the Secretary—

16 “(1) shall provide notice of such allegation to
17 appropriate local law enforcement agencies—

18 “(A) immediately; and

19 “(B) in writing within 48 hours;

20 “(2) shall provide, to any appropriate local law
21 enforcement agency conducting an independent in-
22 vestigation of such allegation, access to the Depart-
23 ment medical facility as the agency reasonably re-
24 quires; and

1 “(3) shall not impede or impair any appropriate
2 local law enforcement agency from conducting an
3 independent investigation of such allegation.

4 “(b) A reportable allegation referred to in subsection
5 (a) is an allegation that any of the following has occurred
6 at a Department medical facility:

7 “(1) A patient is missing.

8 “(2) A patient or staff member has caused
9 physical abuse or battery to a patient or staff mem-
10 ber.

11 “(3) A patient or staff member has unlawfully
12 possessed or used a controlled substance.

13 “(4) A rape or any other felony or indictable of-
14 fense has been committed.”.

15 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
16 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
17 at the end the following new item:

“906. Reports of missing patients and of certain crimes or other misconduct:
notification to and investigation by local law enforcement agen-
cies.”.

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