

Calendar No. 837

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 2818

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 25, 2008

Received; read twice and placed on the calendar

AN ACT

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of epilepsy centers of excellence in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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’ Epilepsy
5 Treatment Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. EPILEPSY CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.**

7 (a) REQUIREMENT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF EPI-
8 LEPSY CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—Subchapter II of
9 chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, is amended
10 by adding at the end the following new section:

1 **“§ 7330A. Epilepsy centers of excellence**

2 “(a) DESIGNATION OF CENTERS.—Not later than
3 120 days after the date of enactment of this section, the
4 Secretary shall designate an epilepsy center of excellence
5 at each of the 5 centers designated under section 7327.

6 “(b) EXPERT CLINICAL AND RESEARCH STAFF.—
7 Each center designated under subsection (a) shall employ
8 such expert clinical and research staff, including board
9 certified neurologists and neurosurgeons, as may be nec-
10 essary to ensure that such center is capable of serving as
11 a center of excellence in research, education, and clinical
12 care activities in the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy,
13 including post-traumatic epilepsy.

14 “(c) REQUIREMENTS AND OPERATION OF CEN-
15 TERS.—Each center designated under subsection (a) shall
16 function as a center for—

17 “(1) research on the diagnosis, treatment, and
18 long-term effects of epilepsy, including epilepsy de-
19 veloped as a result of combat, in order to support
20 the provision of services for such diagnosis and
21 treatment in accordance with the most current infor-
22 mation on epilepsy;

23 “(2) the development of evidence-based meth-
24 odologies for treating individuals with epilepsy;

25 “(3) the continuous and consistent coordination
26 of care from the point of referral throughout the di-

1 agnostic and treatment process and ongoing follow-
2 up after return to home and community;

3 “(4) the development of a national system of
4 coordinated care for veterans with epilepsy, includ-
5 ing the development and maintenance of a national
6 network of Department health care personnel with
7 an interest and expertise in the care and treatment
8 of epilepsy and the establishment of a referral sys-
9 tem and procedure within each Veterans Integrated
10 Service Network;

11 “(5) assist in the expansion, where appropriate,
12 of the utilization of telehealth technology, including
13 exploring the use of such technology to develop,
14 transmit, monitor, and review neurological diag-
15 nostic tests and other applicable uses of telehealth
16 technology for the diagnosis, care, and treatment of
17 veterans with epilepsy; and

18 “(6) the dissemination of educational materials
19 and research regarding diagnosis, care, and treat-
20 ment of epilepsy, throughout the Department.

21 “(d) ADMINISTRATION.—In order to assist the Sec-
22 retary in carrying out this section, the Secretary shall des-
23 ignate a national coordinator for epilepsy programs who
24 shall report to the official responsible for neurology at the
25 Veterans Health Administration and shall—

1 “(1) supervise the operation of the centers des-
2 ignated under this section;

3 “(2) coordinate and support the national net-
4 work of Department health care professionals with
5 an interest and expertise in the care and treatment
6 of epilepsy;

7 “(3) ensure that the education and research
8 mission of such centers is being accomplished; and

9 “(4) conduct regular evaluations of such centers
10 to ensure compliance with the requirements of this
11 section.

12 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
13 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
14 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2013.”.

15 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
16 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
17 after the item relating to section 7330 the following new
18 item:

“7330A. Epilepsy centers of excellence.”.

Passed the House of Representatives June 24, 2008.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.

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