

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3309

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 18, 2012

Mrs. MURRAY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Homeless Veterans Assistance Improvement Act of
6 2012”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
8 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

- Sec. 2. Requirement that recipients of grants from Department of Veterans Affairs for comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans meet physical privacy, safety, and security needs of such veterans.
- Sec. 3. Modification of authority of Department of Veterans Affairs to provide capital improvement grants for comprehensive service programs that assist homeless veterans.
- Sec. 4. Funding for furnishing legal services to very low-income veteran families in permanent housing.
- Sec. 5. Modifications to requirements relating to per diem payments for services furnished to homeless veterans.
- Sec. 6. Authorization of grants by Department of Veterans Affairs to centers that provide services to homeless veterans for operational expenses.
- Sec. 7. Expansion of Department of Veterans Affairs authority to provide dental care to homeless veterans.
- Sec. 8. Extensions of authorities and programs affecting homeless veterans.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT THAT RECIPIENTS OF GRANTS**
 2 **FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
 3 **FOR COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS**
 4 **FOR HOMELESS VETERANS MEET PHYSICAL**
 5 **PRIVACY, SAFETY, AND SECURITY NEEDS OF**
 6 **SUCH VETERANS.**

7 Section 2011(f) of title 38, United States Code, is
 8 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
 9 graph:

10 “(6) To meet the physical privacy, safety, and
 11 security needs of homeless veterans receiving serv-
 12 ices through the project.”.

1 **SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY OF DEPARTMENT OF**
 2 **VETERANS AFFAIRS TO PROVIDE CAPITAL**
 3 **IMPROVEMENT GRANTS FOR COMPREHEN-**
 4 **SIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS THAT ASSIST**
 5 **HOMELESS VETERANS.**

6 Section 2011(a) of title 38, United States Code, is
 7 amended, in the matter before paragraph (1), by inserting
 8 “and maintaining” after “in establishing”.

9 **SEC. 4. FUNDING FOR FURNISHING LEGAL SERVICES TO**
 10 **VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES IN**
 11 **PERMANENT HOUSING.**

12 Section 2044(e) of title 38, United States Code, is
 13 amended—

14 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as
 15 paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

16 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
 17 lowing new paragraph (2):

18 “(2) Of amounts made available under paragraph
 19 (1), not less than one percent shall be available for the
 20 furnishing of services described in subsection
 21 (b)(1)(D)(vii).”.

22 **SEC. 5. MODIFICATIONS TO REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO**
 23 **PER DIEM PAYMENTS FOR SERVICES FUR-**
 24 **NISHED TO HOMELESS VETERANS.**

25 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF PER DIEM PAYMENTS FOR
 26 FURNISHING CARE TO DEPENDENTS OF CERTAIN HOME-

1 LESS VETERANS.—Section 2012(a) of title 38, United
 2 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 3 lowing new paragraph:

4 “(4) Services for which a recipient of a grant under
 5 section 2011 of this title (or an entity described in para-
 6 graph (1)) may receive per diem payments under this sub-
 7 section may include furnishing care for a dependent of a
 8 homeless veteran who is under the care of such homeless
 9 veteran while such homeless veteran receives services from
 10 the grant recipient (or entity).”.

11 (b) PROVISION OF FUNDS FOR PER DIEM PAYMENTS
 12 FOR NONCONFORMING ENTITIES.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2012(d)(1) of such
 14 title is amended, in the matter preceding subpara-
 15 graph (A), by striking “may make” and inserting
 16 “shall make”.

17 (2) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than
 18 one year after the date of the enactment of this Act,
 19 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prescribe
 20 such regulations as may be necessary to implement
 21 the amendment made by paragraph (1).

1 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF GRANTS BY DEPARTMENT OF**
 2 **VETERANS AFFAIRS TO CENTERS THAT PRO-**
 3 **VIDE SERVICES TO HOMELESS VETERANS**
 4 **FOR OPERATIONAL EXPENSES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 20 of
 6 title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after
 7 section 2012 the following new section:

8 **“§ 2012A. Service center operational grants**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of ap-
 10 propriations provided for such purpose, the Secretary may
 11 award to a recipient of a grant under section 2011 of this
 12 title for the establishment of a service center described in
 13 subsection (g) of such section a grant for the operational
 14 expenses of such service center not otherwise covered by
 15 the receipt of per diem payments under section 2012 of
 16 this section.

17 “(b) LIMITATION.—The aggregate amount of all
 18 grants awarded under subsection (a) in any fiscal year
 19 may not exceed \$500,000.”.

20 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 21 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
 22 after the item relating to section 2012 the following new
 23 item:

“2012A. Service center operational grants.”.

24 (c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
 25 fairs shall promulgate regulations to carry out section

1 2012A of title 38, United States Code, as added by sub-
 2 section (a), not later than one year after the date of the
 3 enactment of this Act.

4 **SEC. 7. EXPANSION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
 5 **FAIRS AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE DENTAL**
 6 **CARE TO HOMELESS VETERANS.**

7 Subsection (b) of section 2062 of title 38, United
 8 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

9 “(a) ELIGIBLE VETERANS.—(1) Subsection (a) ap-
 10 plies to a veteran who—

11 “(A) is enrolled for care under section 1705(a)
 12 of this title; and

13 “(B) for a period of 60 consecutive days, is re-
 14 ceiving—

15 “(i) assistance under section 8(o) of the
 16 United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.
 17 1437f(o)); or

18 “(ii) care (directly or by contract) in any
 19 of the following settings:

20 “(I) A domiciliary under section 1710
 21 of this title.

22 “(II) A therapeutic residence under
 23 section 2032 of this title.

1 “(III) Community residential care co-
 2 ordinated by the Secretary under section
 3 1730 of this title.

4 “(IV) A setting for which the Sec-
 5 retary provides funds for a grant and per
 6 diem provider.

7 “(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), in determining
 8 whether a veteran has received assistance or care for a
 9 period of 60 consecutive days, the Secretary may disregard
 10 breaks in the continuity of assistance or care for which
 11 the veteran is not responsible.”.

12 **SEC. 8. EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITIES AND PROGRAMS AF-**
 13 **FFECTING HOMELESS VETERANS.**

14 (a) COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS.—Section
 15 2013 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by strik-
 16 ing paragraph (5) and inserting the following new para-
 17 graphs:

18 “(5) \$250,000,000 for fiscal year 2013.

19 “(6) \$150,000,000 for fiscal year 2014 and
 20 each subsequent fiscal year.”.

21 (b) HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PRO-
 22 GRAMS.—Section 2021(e)(1)(F) of such title is amended
 23 by striking “2012” and inserting “2013”.

24 (c) OUTREACH, CARE, TREATMENT, REHABILITA-
 25 TION, AND THERAPEUTIC TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR

1 VETERANS SUFFERING FROM SERIOUS MENTAL ILL-
 2 NESS.—Section 2031(b) of such title is amended by strik-
 3 ing “December 31, 2012” and inserting “December 31,
 4 2014”.

5 (d) PROGRAM TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE PROVISION
 6 OF BENEFITS AND SERVICES BY DEPARTMENT OF VET-
 7 ERANS AFFAIRS TO HOMELESS VETERANS.—Section
 8 2033(d) of such title is amended by striking “December
 9 31, 2012” and inserting “December 31, 2014”.

10 (e) HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS VET-
 11 ERANS.—Section 2041(e) of such title is amended by
 12 striking “December 31, 2012” and inserting “December
 13 31, 2013”.

14 (f) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERV-
 15 ICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES IN
 16 PERMANENT HOUSING.—Section 2044(e)(1) of such title
 17 is amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
 18 paragraph:

19 “(E) \$300,000,000 for fiscal year 2013.”.

20 (g) GRANT PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS
 21 WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.—Section 2061(c)(1) of such title
 22 is amended by striking “through 2012” and inserting
 23 “through 2015”.

24 (h) ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS VET-
 25 ERANS.—Section 2066(d) of such title is amended by

1 striking “December 31, 2012” and inserting “December
2 31, 2014”.

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