

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 613

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize veterans' treatment courts and encourage services for veterans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2015

Mr. MEEHAN (for himself, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. BUCSHON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize veterans' treatment courts and encourage services for veterans.

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 “Servicemember Assist-
5 ance for Lawful Understanding, Treatment, and Edu-
6 cation Act” or the “SALUTE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. VETERANS' TREATMENT COURTS.**

2 Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe
3 Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3711 et seq.) is amend-
4 ed—

5 (1) by redesignating part JJ, as added by sec-
6 tion 952 of Public Law 110–315 (relating to Loan
7 Repayment for Prosecutors and Public Defenders),
8 as part LL, and moving such part so that such part
9 follows part KK;

10 (2) in part LL, as so redesignated and moved
11 by paragraph (1), by redesignating section 3001 as
12 section 3021; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following new part:

14 **“PART MM—VETERANS' TREATMENT COURTS**

15 **“SEC. 3031. GRANT AUTHORITY.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General is author-
17 ized to award grants for developing, implementing, or en-
18 hancing veterans' treatment courts or expanding oper-
19 ational mental health or drug courts to serve veterans to
20 ensure that such courts effectively integrate substance
21 abuse treatment, mental health treatment, sanctions and
22 incentives, and transitional services, in a judicially super-
23 vised court setting with jurisdiction over offenders who are
24 veterans. The Attorney General may award such grants
25 to States, State courts, local courts, units of local govern-
26 ment, and Indian tribal governments, acting directly or

1 through agreements with other public or private entities,
2 for court programs that involve—

3 “(1) continuing judicial supervision over offend-
4 ers who are veterans with substance abuse or mental
5 health problems;

6 “(2) coordination with appropriate Federal,
7 State, or local prosecutors;

8 “(3) coordination with the Veterans Health Ad-
9 ministration; and

10 “(4) the integrated administration of other
11 sanctions and services, which shall include—

12 “(A) substance abuse and mental health
13 treatment (such as treatment for depression,
14 traumatic brain injury, and post-traumatic
15 stress disorder) for each participant who re-
16 quires such treatment;

17 “(B) diversion, probation, or other super-
18 vised release involving the possibility of prosecu-
19 tion, confinement, or incarceration based on
20 non-compliance with program requirements or
21 failure to show satisfactory progress; and

22 “(C) offender management, which may in-
23 clude aftercare services such as relapse preven-
24 tion, health care, education, vocational training,
25 job placement, housing placement, and child

1 care or other family support services for each
2 participant who requires such services.

3 “(b) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds
4 made available under this part may not be used to provide
5 judicial supervision over, treatment of, or other services
6 to violent offenders. A State, State court, local court, unit
7 of local government, or Indian tribal government that re-
8 ceives a grant under this part may provide such super-
9 vision, treatment, or services to violent offenders who are
10 otherwise eligible for veterans’ treatment court participa-
11 tion only if such supervision, treatment, or services are
12 funded exclusively with non-Federal funds.

13 **“SEC. 3032. ADMINISTRATION.**

14 “(a) CONSULTATION.—In awarding grants under this
15 part, the Attorney General shall consult with the Secretary
16 of Veterans Affairs and any other appropriate officials.

17 “(b) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The Attorney Gen-
18 eral may, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans
19 Affairs, issue regulations and guidelines necessary to carry
20 out this part.

21 “(c) APPLICATIONS.—In addition to any other re-
22 quirements that may be specified by the Attorney General,
23 in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, an
24 application for a grant under this part shall—

1 “(1) include a long-term strategy and imple-
2 mentation plan that shall provide for the consulta-
3 tion and coordination with appropriate Federal,
4 State and local prosecutors, particularly when vet-
5 erans’ treatment court participants fail to comply
6 with program requirements;

7 “(2) explain the applicant’s inability to fund the
8 veterans’ treatment court adequately without Fed-
9 eral assistance;

10 “(3) certify that the Federal support provided
11 will be used to supplement, and not supplant, State,
12 tribal, and local sources of funding that would other-
13 wise be available;

14 “(4) identify related governmental or commu-
15 nity initiatives that complement or will be coordi-
16 nated with the veterans’ treatment court;

17 “(5) certify that there has been appropriate
18 consultation with all affected agencies and that there
19 will be appropriate coordination with all affected
20 agencies in the implementation of the veterans’
21 treatment court;

22 “(6) certify that participating offenders will be
23 supervised by one or more designated judges with re-
24 sponsibility for the veterans’ treatment court;

1 “(7) specify plans for obtaining necessary sup-
2 port and continuing the veterans’ treatment court
3 following the conclusion of Federal support; and

4 “(8) describe the methodology that will be used
5 in evaluating the veterans’ treatment court.

6 **“SEC. 3033. REPORT.**

7 “A State, State court, local court, unit of local gov-
8 ernment, or Indian tribal government that receives funds
9 under this part during a fiscal year shall submit to the
10 Attorney General and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
11 a description and an evaluation report on a date specified
12 by the Attorney General regarding the effectiveness of the
13 veterans’ treatment court carried out with a grant under
14 this part.

15 **“SEC. 3034. DEFINITIONS.**

16 “For the purposes of this part:

17 “(1) VETERAN.—The term ‘veteran’ has the
18 meaning given such term in section 2108 of title 5,
19 United States Code.

20 “(2) VETERANS’ TREATMENT COURT.—The
21 term ‘veterans’ treatment court’ means a program
22 designed to offer a collaborative rehabilitative ap-
23 proach for offenders who are veterans in certain
24 criminal justice proceedings.

1 “(3) VIOLENT OFFENDER.—The term ‘violent
2 offender’ has the meaning given such term in section
3 2953(a).”.

4 **SEC. 3. STUDY BY THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the
6 United States shall conduct a study to assess the effective-
7 ness and impact of the veterans’ treatment court grant
8 program authorized under part MM of title I of the Omni-
9 bus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968. In as-
10 sessing the effectiveness of such grant program, the
11 Comptroller General shall consider—

12 (1) recidivism rates of veterans’ treatment court
13 participants;

14 (2) completion rates among veterans’ treatment
15 court participants;

16 (3) the costs of veterans’ treatment courts to
17 the criminal justice system; and

18 (4) any other factors the Comptroller deter-
19 mines to be appropriate.

20 (b) DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION.—The Attorney
21 General and recipients of grants awarded under part MM
22 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets
23 Act of 1968, as a condition of receiving such a grant, shall
24 provide the Comptroller General with all relevant docu-
25 ments and information that the Comptroller General de-

1 terminates necessary to conduct the study under subsection
2 (a).

3 (c) REPORT.—Not later than January 1, 2017, the
4 Comptroller General shall report to Congress the results
5 of the study conducted under subsection (a).

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