

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1731

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 2, 2015

Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT

To amend title 38, United States Code, to waive the minimum period of continuous active duty in the Armed Forces for receipt of certain benefits for homeless veterans, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish such benefits to homeless veterans with discharges or releases from service in the Armed Forces with other than dishonorable conditions, 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 “Homeless Veterans
 5 Services Protection Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. WAIVER OF MINIMUM PERIOD OF CONTINUOUS AC-**
 7 **TIVE DUTY IN ARMED FORCES FOR CERTAIN**
 8 **BENEFITS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.**

9 Section 5303A(b)(3) of title 38, United States Code,
 10 is amended—

11 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (F) and
 12 (G) as subparagraphs (G) and (H), respectively; and

13 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the fol-
 14 lowing new subparagraph (F):

15 “(F) to benefits under section 2011, 2012,
 16 2013, 2044, or 2061 of this title;”.

17 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION TO FURNISH CERTAIN BENEFITS**
 18 **TO HOMELESS VETERANS WITH DISCHARGES**
 19 **OR RELEASES UNDER OTHER THAN HONOR-**
 20 **ABLE CONDITIONS.**

21 Section 5303(d) of title 38, United States Code, is
 22 amended—

23 (1) by striking “not apply to any war-risk in-
 24 surance” and inserting the following: “not apply to
 25 the following:

1 “(1) Any war-risk insurance”; and

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

4 “(2) Benefits under section 2011, 2012, 2013,
5 2044, or 2061 of this title (except for benefits for
6 individuals discharged or dismissed from the Armed
7 Forces by reason of the sentence of a general court-
8 martial).”.

9 **SEC. 4. MODIFICATION OF DEFINITION OF VETERAN FOR**
10 **PURPOSES OF PROVIDING CERTAIN BENE-**
11 **FITS TO HOMELESS VETERANS.**

12 Section 2002 of title 38, United States Code, is
13 amended—

14 (1) by striking “In this chapter” and inserting

15 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In this chapter”; and

16 (2) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(b) VETERAN DEFINED.—(1) Notwithstanding sec-
18 tion 101(2) of this title and except as provided in para-
19 graph (2), for purposes of sections 2011, 2012, 2013,
20 2044, and 2061 of this title, the term ‘veteran’ means a
21 person who served in the active military, naval, or air serv-
22 ice, regardless of length of service, and who was dis-
23 charged or released therefrom.

24 “(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), the term ‘vet-
25 eran’ excludes a person who—

1 “(A) received a dishonorable discharge from the
2 Armed Forces; or

3 “(B) was discharged or dismissed from the
4 Armed Forces by reason of the sentence of a general
5 court-martial.”.

6 **SEC. 5. TRAINING OF PERSONNEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF**
7 **VETERANS AFFAIRS AND GRANT RECIPIENTS.**

8 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a
9 program of training and education to ensure that the fol-
10 lowing persons are aware of and implement this Act and
11 the amendments made by this Act:

12 (1) Personnel of the Department of Veterans
13 Affairs who are supporting or administering a pro-
14 gram under chapter 20 of title 38, United States
15 Code.

16 (2) Recipients of grants or other amounts for
17 purposes of carrying out such a program.

18 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF PER DIEM PAYMENTS FOR**
19 **FURNISHING CARE TO DEPENDENTS OF CER-**
20 **TAIN HOMELESS VETERANS.**

21 Section 2012(a) of title 38, United States Code, is
22 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
23 graph:

24 “(4) Services for which a recipient of a grant under
25 section 2011 of this title (or an entity described in para-

1 graph (1)) may receive per diem payments under this sub-
2 section may include furnishing care for a dependent of a
3 homeless veteran who is under the care of such homeless
4 veteran while such homeless veteran receives services from
5 the grant recipient (or entity).”.

6 **SEC. 7. REGULATIONS.**

7 Not later than 270 days after the date of the enact-
8 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
9 prescribe regulations, including such modifications to sec-
10 tion 3.12 of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations (or any
11 successor regulation), as the Secretary considers appro-
12 priate, to ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs
13 is in full compliance with this Act and the amendments
14 made by this Act.

15 **SEC. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

16 This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall
17 apply to individuals seeking benefits under chapter 20 of
18 title 38, United States Code, before, on, and after the date
19 of the enactment of this Act.

Passed the Senate October 29, 2015.

Attest:

JULIE E. ADAMS,

Secretary.