

## 116TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

## S. 980

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of services for homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 2, 2019

Mr. Burr (for himself, Mr. Manchin, Mr. Cornyn, and Ms. Hirono) 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 provision of services for 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.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Homeless Veterans
- 5 Prevention Act of 2019".

| 1  | SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF PER DIEM PAYMENTS FOR              |
|----|---|
| 2  | FURNISHING CARE TO DEPENDENTS OF CER-                       |
| 3  | TAIN HOMELESS VETERANS.                                     |
| 4  | Subsection (a) of section 2012 of title 38, United          |
| 5  | States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-       |
| 6  | lowing new paragraph:                                       |
| 7  | "(4) Services for which a recipient of a grant under        |
| 8  | section 2011 of this title (or an entity described in para- |
| 9  | graph (1)) may receive per diem payments under this sub-    |
| 10 | section may include furnishing care for a dependent of a    |
| 11 | homeless veteran who is under the care of such homeless     |
| 12 | veteran while such homeless veteran receives services from  |
| 13 | the grant recipient (or entity).".                          |
| 14 | SEC. 3. PARTNERSHIPS WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTI-          |
| 15 | TIES TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES TO                           |
| 16 | HOMELESS VETERANS AND VETERANS AT                           |
| 17 | RISK OF HOMELESSNESS.                                       |
| 18 | (a) In General.—Chapter 20 of title 38, United              |
| 19 | States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2022     |
| 20 | the following new section:                                  |
| 21 | "§ 2022A. Partnerships with public and private enti-        |
| 22 | ties to provide legal services to homeless                  |
| 23 | veterans and veterans at risk of home-                      |
| 24 | lessness  |
| 25 | "(a) Partnerships Authorized.—Subject to the                |
|    | (a) TANTNERSHITS ACTHORIZED.—Subject to the                 |

- 1 enter into partnerships with public or private entities to
- 2 fund a portion of the general legal services specified in
- 3 subsection (c) that are provided by such entities to home-
- 4 less veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.
- 5 "(b) Locations.—(1) The Secretary shall ensure
- 6 that, to the extent practicable, partnerships under this sec-
- 7 tion are made with entities equitably distributed across the
- 8 geographic regions of the United States, including rural
- 9 communities, tribal lands of the United States, Native
- 10 Americans, and tribal organizations.
- 11 "(2) In this subsection, the terms 'Native American'
- 12 and 'tribal organization' have the meanings given such
- 13 terms in section 3765 of this title.
- 14 "(c) Legal Services.—Legal services specified in
- 15 this subsection include legal services provided by public
- 16 or private entities that address the needs of homeless vet-
- 17 erans and veterans at risk of homelessness as follows:
- 18 "(1) Legal services related to housing, including
- 19 eviction defense and representation in landlord-ten-
- ant cases and foreclosure proceedings.
- 21 "(2) Legal services related to family law, in-
- cluding assistance in court proceedings for family re-
- unification, child support, divorce, and estate plan-
- 24 ning.

| 1  | "(3) Legal services related to income support,             |
|----|--|
| 2  | including assistance in obtaining public benefits.         |
| 3  | "(4) Legal services related to criminal defense,           |
| 4  | including defense in matters symptomatic of home-          |
| 5  | lessness, such as outstanding warrants, fines, and         |
| 6  | driver's license revocation, to reduce recidivism and      |
| 7  | facilitate the overcoming of reentry obstacles in em-      |
| 8  | ployment or housing.                                       |
| 9  | "(5) Such other legal services as the Secretary            |
| 10 | considers appropriate and necessary.                       |
| 11 | "(d) Consultation.—In developing and carrying              |
| 12 | out partnerships under this section, the Secretary shall,  |
| 13 | to the extent practicable, consult with public and private |
| 14 | entities—  |
| 15 | "(1) for assistance in identifying and contacting          |
| 16 | organizations described in subsection (c); and             |
| 17 | "(2) to coordinate appropriate outreach rela-              |
| 18 | tionships with such organizations.                         |
| 19 | "(e) Reports.—The Secretary may require entities           |
| 20 | that have entered into partnerships under this section to  |
| 21 | submit to the Secretary periodic reports on legal services |
| 22 | provided to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of      |
| 23 | homelessness pursuant to such partnerships.".              |
| 24 | (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections              |

25 at the beginning of chapter 20 of such title is amended

| 1  | by adding after the item relating to section 2022 the fol-   |
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| 2  | lowing new item:   |
|    | "2022A. Partnerships with public and private entities to provide legal services to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.". |
| 3  | SEC. 4. EXPANSION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-  |
| 4  | FAIRS AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE DENTAL  |
| 5  | CARE TO HOMELESS VETERANS.   |
| 6  | Subsection (b) of section 2062 of title 38, United   |
| 7  | States Code, is amended to read as follows:  |
| 8  | "(b) Eligible Veterans.—(1) Subsection (a) ap-   |
| 9  | plies to a veteran who—  |
| 10 | "(A) is enrolled for care under section 1705(a)  |
| 11 | of this title; and   |
| 12 | "(B) for a period of 60 consecutive days, is re-   |
| 13 | ceiving—   |
| 14 | "(i) assistance under section 8(o) of the  |
| 15 | United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.   |
| 16 | 1437f(o)); or  |
| 17 | "(ii) care (directly or by contract) in any  |
| 18 | of the following settings:   |
| 19 | "(I) A domiciliary under section 1710  |
| 20 | of this title.   |
| 21 | "(II) A therapeutic residence under  |
| 22 | 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. 5. REPEAL OF SUNSET ON AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT         |
| 13 | PROGRAM OF REFERRAL AND COUNSELING                         |
| 14 | SERVICES FOR VETERANS AT RISK FOR                          |
| 15 | HOMELESSNESS WHO ARE TRANSITIONING                         |
| 16 | FROM CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS.                                 |
| 17 | Section 2023 of title 38, United States Code, is           |
| 18 | amended—   |
| 19 | (1) by striking subsection (d); and                        |
| 20 | (2) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-                |
| 21 | section (d).   |

| 1   | SEC. 6. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR FINANCIAL ASSIST-  |
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| 2   | ANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VERY   |
| 3   | LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES IN PERMA-   |
| 4   | NENT HOUSING.   |
| 5   | (a) In General.—Paragraph (1) of section 2044(e)  |
| 6   | of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at  |
| 7   | the end the following new subparagraph:   |
| 8   | ``(H) \$500,000,000 for fiscal year 2020.''.  |
| 9   | (b) Training Entities for Provision of Sup-   |
| 10  | PORTIVE SERVICES.—Paragraph (3) of such section is  |
| 11  | amended by inserting "and 2020" after "through 2012".   |
| 12  | SEC. 7. REQUIREMENT FOR COMPTROLLER GENERAL TO  |
| 12  |   |
| 13  | STUDY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  |
| 13  | HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAMS.   |
|   |   |
| 14  | HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAMS.   |
| 14<br>15  | HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAMS.  (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the  |
| <ul><li>14</li><li>15</li><li>16</li><li>17</li></ul> | HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAMS.  (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General   |
| <ul><li>14</li><li>15</li><li>16</li><li>17</li></ul> | HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAMS.  (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete a study of programs   |
| 14<br>15<br>16<br>17<br>18                            | HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAMS.  (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete a study of programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs that provide assist-  |
| 14<br>15<br>16<br>17<br>18<br>19                      | HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAMS.  (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete a study of programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs that provide assistance to homeless veterans.   |
| 14<br>15<br>16<br>17<br>18<br>19<br>20                | HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAMS.  (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete a study of programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs that provide assistance to homeless veterans.  (b) Elements.—The study required by subsection   |
| 14<br>15<br>16<br>17<br>18<br>19<br>20<br>21          | HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAMS.  (a) In General.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete a study of programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs that provide assistance to homeless veterans.  (b) Elements.—The study required by subsection (a) shall include the following:  |
| 14<br>15<br>16<br>17<br>18<br>19<br>20<br>21<br>22    | HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAMS.  (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete a study of programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs that provide assistance to homeless veterans.  (b) Elements.—The study required by subsection (a) shall include the following:  (1) An assessment of whether programs de- |

| 1  | (2) A review of recent efforts of the Secretary         |
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| 2  | of Veterans Affairs to improve the privacy, safety,     |
| 3  | and security of female veterans receiving assistance    |
| 4  | from such programs.                                     |
| 5  | SEC. 8. REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL REPORTS        |
| 6  | ON ASSISTANCE TO HOMELESS VETERANS.                     |
| 7  | (a) In General.—Section 2065 of title 38, United        |
| 8  | States Code, is hereby repealed.                        |
| 9  | (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections           |
| 10 | at the beginning of chapter 20 of such title is amended |

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11 by striking the item relating to section 2065.